

IRA murders three RAF men

Revenge killings in Dutch border towns

From Richard Owen, Nieuw Bergen, and Michael Evans, London

The IRA yesterday took bloody revenge for the killing of three Republican terrorists on Gibraltar in March, brutally murdering three RAF servicemen posted in West Germany who were spending a night off-duty in The Netherlands.

Three other British servicemen were injured, two seriously. Dutch, British and West German police immediately launched a co-ordinated hunt for the killers.

In the first incident, three members of 16 Squadron of RAF Regiment, which guards all bases in West Germany, had driven from RAF Wildenrath, where they were based, to the Dutch town of Roermond in a British force-registered silver-grey Volkswagen Golf. They spent Saturday evening in the King George pub, which is frequented by British servicemen most weekends.

After they returned to their car, parked outside the town's central centre, they were sprayed with machinegun bullets, fired by a lone gunman.

Senior Aircraftman Ian Shimmer, aged 20, from Winsford, Cheshire, who was sitting in the front passenger seat, died instantly. His two companions were seriously wounded.

There was no exchange of fire. Unlike Northern Ireland, where off-duty soldiers normally carry "personal protection" pistols, servicemen with the British Army of the Rhine and RAF Germany are not usually armed off-duty.

In the second incident, exactly half an hour later, in the

The IRA claimed responsibility for the two incidents in a message to Mrs Thatcher from Dublin, which was signed by "P. O'Neill", the usual name given at the end of statements by the IRA leadership.

Dutch town of Nieuw Bergen, 30 miles north of Roermond, three RAF men were blown up when a bomb detonated as they sat in their car at a remote car park. Two were killed, the third was seriously injured.

The servicemen, all based at RAF Laarbruch in West Germany, had been to the local discotheque, the Bacchus, which was also a favourite off-duty haunt.

British intelligence knew that an IRA active service unit was "abroad", but there was no specific information about its likely target, it emerged yesterday.

All servicemen in the UK and in foreign posts had been on a higher state of alert since the incident in Gibraltar during March when the SAS shot three members of an IRA active service unit which had planned to detonate a car bomb targeted at the resident First Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment.

But, as sources said last night, the highest state of alert, indicating "an imminent attack", had not been issued because there was no evidence of a particular threat, although it was fully realised that the IRA would try to retaliate at some stage for the Gibraltar shootings.

The latest IRA outrage was carried out in two towns well-known to be favoured by RAF personnel for socialising.

It was the first time that the RAF has been specifically targeted by the IRA, according to sources last night.

In both cases, the cars used by the servicemen were "easily identifiable" as British forces vehicles, defence sources said. Apart from the GB stickers, the number plates on all Forces cars in Germany are

very simple, and include the letter "B".

However, three of the RAF's four main airbases in West Germany are all clustered together not far from the Dutch border, at Wildenrath, Laarbruch and Bruggen. The headquarters of BAOR and RAF Germany is also in the area, at Rheindahlen, near Moenchengladbach.

It was not clear yesterday whether the attacks in the two Dutch towns were conducted by the same IRA hit squad or by separate teams. Police in both places were yesterday checking all other cars with British numberplates, including a red BMW parked next to the burned-out Ford in Nieuw Bergen. But no further bombs were found.

As the Government reacted with horror at the two incidents yesterday - Mrs Thatcher was kept fully informed at Chequers of events over the weekend - defence sources emphasised that it was impossible to mount the highest state of alert for a long time unless a specific threat had been pinpointed by intelligence.

One source said: "Why this particular moment was chosen by the IRA we don't know, but perhaps all the publicity over the television documentary on the Gibraltar shooting may have had something to do with the timing."

The IRA has a support network in The Netherlands among other terrorist organizations and sympathisers.

Yesterday Mr George Younger, the Secretary of State of Defence, said: "Everything possible will be done to increase the security of British service personnel in the wake of the IRA attack."

He said that the servicemen were off-duty and unarmed and had nothing to do with any military operation.

Mr Younger, speaking on BBC Radio 4, expressed his fullest sympathy with the relatives of those who had been killed and injured.

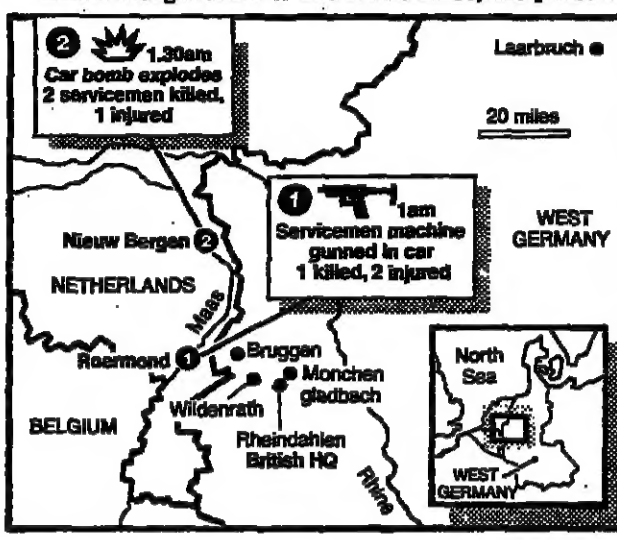
Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, also sent his "deepest sympathy" to the relatives and condemned the IRA attack.

Mr Deazil Davies, the Opposition defence spokesman, expressed his "horror and utter condemnation of the murderous attack". He said there was "not a shred of justification" for the attacks on these men.

He said: "The task now is to make sure that the perpetrators are brought to justice."



Wreckage of the car which blew up at Nieuw Bergen, killing two British servicemen and leaving a third with "horrendous" injuries. Below, how the IRA killers brought terror to The Netherlands, and police examining the car in Roermond in which another RAF man was shot dead and two injured.



The night erupted into a ball of flame

From Richard Owen, Nieuw Bergen

Mr Edvar Hooven is the doorman at the Bacchus disco on the town hall square at Nieuw Bergen, a neat dormitory suburb of the older town of Bergen and nearby industrial cities like Eindhoven. Normally he has little more to do than keep an eye on the hundreds of youngsters who crowd the disco, held in a room below street level and decorated in mock grotto style.

This Saturday night was different, and not only because there was a funfair in the square outside to celebrate the May Day holiday.

Mr Hooven watched two British servicemen dressed in off-duty jeans and casual shirts like many another airman and soldier coming to Holland for a night out.

They emerged from the underground cavern and got into their white Escort, with its British plates, ready to drive back to their base over the border in Germany. With

one man in the driving seat and one in the back, the car pulled out of its parking slot and paused to pick up their companion.

As the third man opened the passenger door, the doorman saw the night erupt into a ball of fire, whether because the

car was booby-trapped or because the bomb was set off by remote control, police do not yet know. The two men died as they sat in the car, engulfed by a wall of flame too

hot for would-be rescuers to get to them.

Inside the disco some of the youngsters - who yesterday evening were still sitting round the cordoned-off town square trying to make sense of what had happened - did not even hear the bomb because of the thudding disco music. But Lieutenant Tom de Bruin, a Dutch army officer on leave in the town, did hear it and he rushed out.

"I could not believe it," he said yesterday, still shaken. Two bodies inside were already unrecognizable. By then other disco-goers had joined him. "We tried to put out the flames with extinguishers from the disco, but it was hopeless. The third serviceman, who survived, staggered towards the onlookers and fell. He was taken away later by ambulance, muttering a name which the ambulance nurse said sounded like Andrew or Anthony."

"I have seen accidents with land mines in the army, but

nothing like this," Lieutenant de Bruin said quietly.

The sense of shock and bewilderment was also felt 30 miles away at Roermond, where another British serviceman was killed and two were injured, this time in a gunfire attack.

The Dutch-German border is an idyllic landscape of spring blossom, bicyclists and tree-lined avenues along the River Maas, a haven for British soldiers and airmen in Germany looking for relaxation or a good night out. Roermond, a tranquil town, boasts a medieval cathedral, Munster, with a modern pedestrian shopping precinct adjacent to it.

This time there were no witnesses; the three servicemen were walking back to their car, parked outside a curtain shop in a secluded side street in the shopping precinct, when they were cut down by an unknown number of assailants, who simply disappeared into the quiet night.

Yesterday the townspeople of Roermond did what they

always do on Sundays: they walked their dogs, and sat in the open-air cafes on the Munster square. But the town had been touched by violence and the mood was uneasy. One or two nearby residents had heard the gunfire but had taken it for fireworks.

"I only hope this Irish business does not spill over to us," one worried policeman said.

At Nieuw Bergen, the town's disco youngsters were similarly anxious - and angry. "The bastards," one economist student said through his teeth as we switched the burned-out car being towed away, its paint blistered black, its tyres burned away, its bonnet and roof a mangled mess like a torn-open tin.

Bastards for killing unarmed British servicemen? "Yes, for that certainly. They had nothing to do with Ireland, they were just having a good time. But bastards too because the IRA did it here. They should leave Holland in peace. It all seems totally useless."

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● With one weekly prize winner on Saturday (see page 3). Portfolio Accumulator stands at £58,000. Because the Stock Exchange is closed today there will be no competition. Portfolio resumes tomorrow.

INSIDE
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● Starting tomorrow - the most complete and authoritative of racing guides... The Times Racing Service provides all the up-to-the-minute information needed by racing followers. Details: page 28

INSIDE

Hidden deals
Hundreds of companies and directors are not complying with regulations on the disclosure of share dealings. Page 19

Senna triumph
Brazil's Ayrton Senna led from lap one to win the San Marino Grand Prix. Page 28

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Poland swept by May Day riots

Warsaw (Reuters) - Riot police charged May Day demonstrators in a Gdansk church and used batons and tear gas to disperse anti-government protests in at least six other towns yesterday. But General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Polish leader, said his administration would not change course.

Witnesses and opposition sources said heavy police contingents used batons and hand-held tear gas sprays to break up street marches by thousands of opposition supporters in Warsaw, Gdansk, Cracow, Wroclaw, Lodz, Poznan and Plock.

In Gdansk, two policemen were dismissed and beaten inside St Brygida's church, a stronghold of the banned Solidarity trade union, after five of them charged into the building chasing demonstrators who threw stones from inside.

Hundreds of police and demonstrators buried stones

No choice for Le Pen supporters

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

M Jean-Marie Le Pen yesterday urged his followers in the far-right National Front movement to use their own judgement in choosing between President Mitterrand and Jacques Chirac in next Sunday's presidential election.

At a mass meeting in the gardens of the Tuileries in Paris, M Le Pen told an estimated 50,000 rain-swept supporters that the choice facing France was between "the bad and the worst."

In a clear reference to the National Front's determination to make its muscle felt, after his remarkable 14.5 per cent of the first-round vote, M Le Pen indicated that his party's voters wanted proof that M Chirac understands their feeling for tough new measures against France's immigrant population.

Chirac snubbed, page 7

Gibraltar witness may sue papers

By Our Foreign Staff

The Gibraltar eyewitness, who claims she saw SAS soldiers shoot and kill three members of the IRA as they tried to surrender, said yesterday that her lawyers are considering taking legal action against British newspapers which she claims defamed and libelled her in articles published last week.

In an interview with The Times, Mrs Carmen Proetta, a translator, rejected allegations that she was "anti-British" and had received payments for her television interview.

Speaking from San Roque in southern Spain, she suggested that she had been the victim of a disinformation campaign, aimed at discrediting her as a witness.

Her allegations, televised last week, caused a furious row in which the Government accused the Independent Broadcast Authority of "trial by television". Yesterday Mrs

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Dover ferry dispute spreads to all-out stoppage

By Roland Radd and Ronald Farr

The P&O European Ferries dispute escalated yesterday into an all-out national strike by the National Union of Seamen after Mr Sam McCluskie, its general secretary, claimed that with more than 80 per cent of British ferries halted he was ready to defy the law.

The Pride of Bruges, the first British ferry for three months to sail from Dover, arrived at Zeebrugge yesterday afternoon with a small group of passengers. Pickets at the Eastern Docks, Dover, were powerless to prevent the ship leaving. Sir Jeffrey Sterling, chairman of P&O, told the crew he would stand by any victims of intimidation.

In Portsmouth, the crew of the P&O ferry Viking Viscount went on strike while 38 men aboard the Sealink vessel Earl Granville refused to sail for France and the Channel Islands. The company and 120 passengers were given just 15 minutes notice.

Mr Ted Sangster, Sealink's general manager at Portsmouth, said he was hoping to start work again today. The port authority said the crew of the Earl Granville had promised to move the ship from the berth she is blocking and drop anchor in the harbour.

In addition to the Viking Viscount, the Viking Valiant was stranded in Cherbourg and will not be allowed

into port. The Viking Voyager was at a standstill in Southampton.

The High Court is expected to sequester the NUS's £2.8 million assets tomorrow for breaking an injunction not to halt Sealink services.

However, a senior NUS official said yesterday: "Mr McCluskie feels the issue at stake in Dover is vital to the trade union movement. If one has to defy the law then so be it."

NUS members in Scotland voted to join the strike, affecting ferry services to Orkney, Shetland and Northern Ireland. The action could also affect the North Sea oil industry, with 19 North Sea supply boats and two tankers lying idle in Aberdeen.

The crew of the ferry St Clair have voted to cease work between Aberdeen and the Shetlands after returning

the vessel to Aberdeen. Union officials said they would be asking crew on Caledonian MacBrayne ferries, which serve islands off the west coast of Scotland, to join the action.

The dispute virtually cut Northern Ireland off from Britain as all passenger and car ferries between Ulster and the mainland were halted.

Sealink crewmen at Fishguard, west Wales, began a 24-hour lightning strike yesterday. About 50 seamen held a union meeting on board the St Brendan before giving 45 minutes notice that they would not sail to Rosslare, Ireland.

A Sealink spokesman said 100 cars and 50 foot passengers were affected. The walk-out means all Sealink services between Wales and Ireland

Continued on page 3, col 4

NEWS ROUNDUP

British Rail starts big stock renewal

British Rail's Network SouthEast has invited British industry to bid for contracts to supply two train fleets totalling up to 1,300 coaches, in the biggest London area rolling stock renewal programme for 30 years. It is expected to begin entering service in 1990.

The first tender is for 180 diesel-powered Networker turbos for the Aylesbury and High Wycombe Chiltern route, and routes from Paddington to Reading.

The larger contract will be, initially, for 710 electric-powered Networker vehicles to replace stock on inner-suburban routes into Kent from Charing Cross, Cannon Street, Blackfriars and Victoria stations. There will be an option to increase the order by 410 vehicles.

Network SouthEast says it is the first general approach to the railway vehicle supply industry. Previous electric fleets have been supplied by British Rail Engineering, which has been invited to tender. The contracts are on top of orders for more than 150 vehicles, costing over £190 millions.

Bar on drink adverts

A move to curb drunkenness among the young will be signalled later this month when the Independent Broadcasting Authority is expected to receive Home Office approval to impose stricter rules on alcoholic drinks advertisers, who spend more than £120 million a year. The move comes days after the Commons agreed to extend Sunday public house opening hours. Action on Alcohol Abuse claims that drink kills 10 times as many youngsters as drugs. The new IBA instructions are likely to bar young people, or those appealing to the young, from advertisements for drinks.

Doorstep milk threat

The traditional daily doorstep milk delivery is under threat and even more consumers are switching to buying milk from shops, according to a National Dairy Council report. Although 98 per cent of all households buy fresh milk, the number relying on deliveries has fallen to 79 per cent and more than a third of consumers get extra milk from shops. The report says: "It is all too clear that the delivery service is reaching a critical stage. It is simply not meeting the challenge of a changing environment."

Court TV opposed

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney General, has spoken against the televising of court proceedings in England and Wales. The Bar recently set up a committee to look into the proposal and is hoping to report to the Government by the autumn. However yesterday Sir Patrick said in a radio interview on *The World This Week* that televising proceedings would be "an unnecessary distraction".

Wedding tent topples

Seven people were injured when a marquee collapsed on 500 guests at a wedding reception at Hertfordshire House, Goshill, Buckinghamshire, on Saturday. Prince Rupert Lowenstein, aged 36, a City banker, suffered a broken foot. The wedding was that of Miss Frances Heilmann, aged 27, and Mr Charles Levinson, also aged 27, a physician, of Richmond, south-west London.

Fund-raising assault

Climbers began a charity assault on Scottish peaks yesterday in an attempt to top every summit above 3,000 ft and raise £20,000. More than 2,000 took part in Boots over Scotland, in aid of Mr Davy Pearson, of Kilsyth, Strathclyde, who suffered serious injuries to his head when he fell 300 ft at Glen Elvie, near Glenelg, in 1986.

Union leader got interest-free loan

By Roland Razi

Mr John Macreadie, militant deputy general secretary of the Civil and Public Services Association (CPSA), has been given an interest-free loan of £13,500 by his executive to help to meet the cost of a High Court action against his own union, it was disclosed yesterday.

Mr Macreadie, who refuses to take his full salary of £22,000, has been given permission by the militant-dominated executive to pay back the loan at £100 a month after losing his legal action in 1984.

Mr Macreadie took the then moderate-controlled executive to court when it refused to let him take up his post as general secretary amid allegations of widespread ballot rigging. A subsequent election reversed the decision and Mr John Ellis was elected general secretary.

Mr Ellis yesterday attacked

what he called the "corrupt action which is indicative of extremists". He said it would take more than 11 years to pay back the money.

In another development within the troubled union, Mrs Pat Womersley, a member of the small Democratic Moderate Group which broke away from the main National Moderate Group three years ago, yesterday said she had written to the Government's certification officer to stop the current election for the executive.

She alleges that a circular written by Mr Ellis was in breach of the Trade Union Act, 1984.

She said that the circular to the union's 145,000 members mentioned three of the political groupings, but not the Democratic Moderate Group. Mr Ellis said the certification officer has ruled in his favour that it was even handed.

Goat coats could help farmers out in the cold

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The Angora goat with its high-quality mohair coat could be a solution to farmers seeking new sources of income, according to a recent report.

The goats are not only well suited to the British climate but could prove more profitable than sheep, it says.

The report, commissioned jointly by the British Angora Goat Society and the marketing organization, Food From Britain, was written by David Thelwall, a leading agricultural analyst, who estimates 1,000 tonnes of mohair

a year would be a reasonable target.

The Angora, with its lucrative fleece and high meat value, has a future the report says, despite "seeds of doubt" sown by overseas producers.

Goat meat commands a higher price than in other producing countries, selling strongly among ethnic communities.

● Farmers had a chance to tackle stress when the Samaritans set up an advice service at the Leicestershire agricultural show yesterday.

Firms have adopted a variety of tactics to recruit and retain specialists, which include improved pay and conditions and the establishment of closer links with polytechnics and universities, to ensure that courses complement employment needs.

According to the study, however, there is still a gap between what the companies want and what they actually

get, because of the cost of training.

Jaguar Cars calculates it spends ten times the national average on training; a consulting firm says it costs an extra £20,000 a year on top of salary to train a graduate engineer.

The companies are then faced with a new problem: the trained employees are vulnerable to poaching from better-paying competitors.

Mr John Edmunds, general secretary of the GMB general union, yesterday called on the Government to increase immediately its financial support to employee training.

He said: "The London newspapers are carrying ad-

Urban Pony Club delights young riders



A group of excited city children setting off on their first lesson from Ross Nye's Riding Stables in Bathurst Mews, near Lancaster Gate, west London, yesterday, under the supervision of Kirsty Nye (fourth from left), the stable owner's daughter, after the Pony Club had given the go-ahead for the school to become its first branch based on a riding stable. About 70 children joined the ponies for an outing to Rotten Row in Hyde Park, owner of the only three stables in the Hyde Park area for the last 22 years, said that his organization was the first of four stables to be granted branch status by the Pony Club this year. Another branch will open at the Lea Bridge Riding Centre, Leyton, east London, in October (Photograph: Dennis McNeelane).

MORI findings show Tories may lose seats
Poll warns of local election shock

By Robin Oakley
Political Editor

The local government elections on Thursday are likely to bring shocks for Mrs Margaret Thatcher's Government, according to the latest MORI national opinion poll.

With 48 per cent of voters able to go to the polls in the biggest test of public opinion since the general election last June, indications are that Labour will gain seats in spite of having been on the crest of a wave when the seats to be contested were last decided in 1984.

The Conservatives face a particularly hard time in Scotland, where the MORI poll has them trailing at 23 per cent support compared with 50 per cent for Labour, 18 per cent for the Scottish National Party, 6 per cent for the Democrats or SLD and 2 per cent for Dr David Owen's SDP.

The poll puts national support at 44 per cent for the Conservatives, 42 per cent for Labour, 6 per cent for the Democrats, 5 per cent for the SDP and 3 per cent for Others. A month ago, the Conservatives had 46 per cent compared with Labour's 37 per cent.

At the general election, the Tories won 43 per cent of the vote to 32 per cent for Labour. The Tory lead has dropped to two percentage points, a swing of 4.5 per cent since the general election. Of that fall, seven percentage points have been lost in the past month.

When MORI asked voters how they intended to vote in the local elections, the picture became bleaker for the Government.

All areas where the contests are to be held, largely urban districts and Scotland, favour the Labour Party. When those responding were asked, in areas where local elections are to be held, how they intended to vote, the figures gave Labour 49 per cent, Tories 33 per cent and the former Alliance parties 11 per cent.

That compares with figures of 46 per cent for Labour, 35 per cent for the Tories and 18 per cent for the Alliance parties when the seats concerned were last fought in 1984. At that stage, the national standing of the parties was

Are you satisfied with the way the Government is running the country? Mrs Thatcher is doing her job as Prime Minister/Mr Kinnoch, Mr Steel, Mr Macleannan, Dr Owen is doing his job as leader or joint leader?

	MARCH	NOW	CHANGE
Total	Own Party	Opp Party	
Government	39	38	-1 (0)
Satisfied	54	56	+2 (+1)
Dissatisfied	-15	-18	-3 (-1)
Mrs Thatcher	46	43	-3 (-5)
Satisfied	49	52	+3 (+3)
Dissatisfied	-3	-9	-6 (-10)
Mr Kinnoch	36	39	+3 (+4)
Satisfied	50	47	-3 (0)
Dissatisfied	-14	-8	+6 (+4)
Mr Steel	25	25	0 (+7)
Satisfied	46	42	-4 (-1)
Dissatisfied	-21	-17	+4 (+15)
Mr Macleannan	11	9	-2 (-4)
Satisfied	39	36	-3 (-7)
Dissatisfied	-28	-27	+1 (+3)
Dr Owen	32	29	-3 (-13)
Satisfied	39	39	0 (0)
Dissatisfied	-7	-10	-3 (-23)

Kinnoch leadership gain on Thatcher

Satisfaction with Mrs Margaret Thatcher's performance as Prime Minister has been dropping steadily since last December while Mr Kinnoch is earning better marks for the way he performs his duties as Labour Party leader.

According to the latest MORI poll, the swing from the Government to Labour is 1.5 per cent while that from Mrs Thatcher to Mr Kinnoch is 3 per cent.

Nine per cent more people are dissatisfied with Mrs Thatcher than are satisfied with her, compared with only 3 per cent a month ago, while Mr Kinnoch's rating has improved by six points.

Satisfaction with the Government, at 39 per cent, remains well up on its worst rating of 16 per cent in March 1981. However, it is well down from the peak of

Conservatives 40 per cent, Labour 39 per cent and Alliance 20 per cent.

A MORI study of past local elections confirms that Labour tends to do 3-5 per cent better than in national elections. In 1985, Labour did two points better in local elections than its position in national opinion polls at the time and the Tories did 4 per cent worse. In 1986, Labour was two points up and the Tories were one point down.

MORI interviewed a representative quota sample of 1,847 adults aged 18 and over in 150 constituencies from April 22 to 26.

What will alarm Conservative strategists, nervous about public reactions to the social security benefit changes and the poll tax, is that the figures represent a 1.5 per cent swing to Labour compared with a year in which Labour did exceptionally well.

In Scotland, the Tories are threatened with further disaster after the loss of 11 seats in

the general election when they took 24 per cent of the vote, compared with Labour 42 per cent, Alliance 19 per cent, Scottish National Party 14 per cent and Others 1 per cent.

Although the Alliance vote has collapsed to 6 per cent for the Democrats and 2 per cent for the SDP, it is Labour which has gained with 50 per cent support to only 23 per cent for the Tories.

A separate MORI poll in Scotland, conducted for *The Scotsman*, shows support of

from its canvassing. Mr John Harman, Labour group leader, said: "This is an area of low tangible values, with a lot of people paying full rates of only £100 to £200. There have been a lot of people playing back their concern about poll tax to us on the doorstep."

Labour's bedrock in Kirkcaldy is central Huddersfield, along with Batley and Dewsbury. The Conservatives hold the Batley and Spennings constituency.

In Dewsbury there are signs of an issue on which Labour could lose votes: the Thornhill schools.

Thornhill is Labour's second-safest ward in the district, but it is one where the white working class may switch to an Independent who is making play

PARTY IMAGE

CONSERVATIVES		LABOUR	
All Voters	Party Supporters	All Voters	Party Supporters
52	31	7	2
50	24	13	4
32	58	6	12
28	7	32	11
27	54	9	19
26	53	26	48
23	50	15	33
18	34	7	16
17	5	20	4
13	28	29	52
10	20	40	63
9	5	45	29
8	17	19	35
8	16	10	15

Women are more satisfied with her than are men. The level of dissatisfaction is highest among those aged over 55, particularly elderly pensioners.

In areas where local elections are due on Thursday, Mr Kinnoch has a minus 9 rating compared with minus 17 for Mrs Thatcher. The Government itself is nearly twice as unpopular in those areas, at minus 30 per cent, compared with a national rating of minus 18 per cent.

The survey shows Mr Steel has recovered substantially among his own supporters in the past month, although not with the general public. Dr Owen is more popular with the SDP than is Mr Steel with the Democrats. However, that may be in part because the figures are taken from a smaller base.

35 per cent for a completely independent Scotland and 42 per cent in favour of a Scottish Assembly. Only 20 per cent favour the present system.

A majority of voters think the Conservatives are too dominated by their leader, an opinion shared by 31 per cent of Tories. Half, rising to two-thirds in Scotland, think the Government is out of touch with ordinary people.

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Race row over schools may swing hung council

By David Walker

If the community charge is not a powerful issue in the polling stations of Holford, Batley, Dewsbury and Huddersfield on Thursday it will not be for lack of effort by the parties vying for power in the metropolitan district of Kirklees, West Yorkshire. All three of them.

In Kirklees, in spite of a certain defensive tone, the Conservatives have not been abashed.

As well as the Central Office bandwagon featuring Mr Jeffrey Archer and Mr Michael Howard, Minister of State at the Department of the Environment with responsibility for local government, the local party leader, Mr John Holt, has been "putting the message across".

That is Labour's conclusion, too, from its canvassing. Mr John Harman, Labour group leader, said: "This is an area of low tangible values, with a lot of people paying full rates of only £100 to £200. There have been a lot of people playing back their concern about poll tax to us on the doorstep."

Labour's bedrock in Kirklees is central Huddersfield, along with Batley and Dewsbury. The Conservatives hold the Batley and Spennings constituency.

In Dewsbury there are signs of an issue on which Labour could lose votes: the Thornhill schools.

Thornhill is Labour's second-safest ward in the district, but it is one where the white working class may switch to an Independent who is making play

with the issue of parental choice of school. It is based on a controversy over the wish of some parents to send their children to a primary school which has fewer Asians than their current school.

The rights and wrongs of action by parents and the council are being tested in the courts; there has been a remarkable cross-party agreement not to politicize the issue.

Mr Holt, referring to the large Asian community in Kirklees, said: "Ethnic minorities are prospering under the Conservative Government. We have a number of 18 and 19-year-old Asians born in Kirklees, with a chance to vote for the first time. They are aware that the Conservative Party has improved their quality of life."

inadequacy of the plumbing.

The board repeats in the report last year's concerns about human waste thrown by prisoners from cell windows. It is collected in double-thickness plastic bags to be taken away by the local authority in a skip once a fortnight.

● The Governor of Brixton prison in Glasgow has ordered an investigation into trouble which flared in the prison's C Hall at the weekend.

Two prison officers were taken to hospital, one suffering from facial injuries and the other from smoke inhalation, after fires were lit outside cells.

Labour aims for quality services

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

A far-reaching shift in the Labour Party's attitude to management and the public services is recommended in a key policy report to go before the National Executive.

The review group on consumers and the community is to recommend the development of a "public enterprise culture" within the Labour movement, designed to fulfil the party's aim of quality in the public services.

In a radical, philosophical development the group, chaired by Mr Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, and Mr David Blunkett, a prominent NEC member, is to propose that the quality of services matters more than whether they are publicly or privately owned. It stops short of backing connecting out of services, but stresses the fact that services that are publicly delivered cannot automatically guarantee efficiency.

The group is one of seven review bodies set up last autumn to revise Labour's approach for the 1990s. All have completed their first reports, which are to go before Labour's home policy committee next Monday. They will then be considered by the NEC this month and go to the annual conference in the autumn.

The policy changes which have so far emerged are:

Public ownership and economy: The group co-chaired by Mr Bryan Gould, shadow trade and industry secretary, has come down against renationalization of the public utilities privatized or being sold off by the Tories. Instead it proposes control by other means, by taking powers to ensure that they improve the level and quality of their service to the public. Regulatory authorities will be given new powers. The enterprises will be declared public interest companies.

Labour will control some of them by taking a stake in the companies, not by buying back shares but by turning them into non-voting bonds.

The group recommends the abandonment of Labour's pledge to cut the debt by one million over two years. Instead it restores Labour's former aspiration of full employment without setting precise targets.

Taxation: The economic equality group co-chaired by Mr John Smith, the shadow chancellor, recommends a new fair taxation system with a lower starting rate of tax, believed to have been set at 15p. Higher rates abolished in the Budget will be restored, but probably not above 55 per cent. The ceiling on national insurance contributions would be abolished, hitting those earning more than £15,000 a year.

Employment: The people at work group co-chaired by Mr Michael Meacher, Labour employment spokesman, avoids a commitment to repeal Conservative labour legislation. Instead it concentrates on improving the rights of people at work. It recommends a flexible approach to worker participation.

It proposes that for the first time Labour should enter the next election committed to a specified minimum wage, possibly £100, but introduced over three years.

International: The Britain in the World group co-chaired by Mr Gerald Kaufman, the shadow foreign secretary, proposes the abandonment of Labour's policy of withdrawal from the EEC, but proposes it should now get the best deal possible out of EEC membership.

On defence the group has delayed policy decisions pending the outcome of superpower talks on strategic arms limitation and the development of intermediate nuclear force reduction deals.

By the time the report is published, the Conservative Party will have a number of 18 and 19-year-old Asians born in Kirklees, with a chance to vote for the first time. They are aware that the Conservative Party has improved their quality of life."

Training costs dismay firms

The high cost of training employees is a big problem for companies in need of specialists, according to a report on skill shortages and training by the independent pay group Incomes Data Services.

Firms have adopted a variety of tactics to recruit and retain specialists, which include improved pay and conditions and the establishment of closer links with polytechnics and universities, to ensure that courses complement employment needs.

According to the study, however, there is still a gap between what the companies want and what they actually

get, because of the cost of training.

Jaguar Cars calculates it spends ten times the national average on training; a consulting firm says it costs an extra £20,000 a year on top of salary to train a graduate engineer.

The companies are then faced with a new problem: the trained employees are vulnerable to poaching from better-paying competitors.

Mr John Edmunds, general secretary of the GMB general union, yesterday called on the Government to increase immediately its financial support to employee training.

He said: "The London newspapers are carrying ad-

Tartan disguise fools smoked salmon buyers

By Kerry Gill

Hundreds of tons of smoked salmon, which is being sold in tartan wrapping and labelled "Scottish", has been nowhere near a Highland smokery.

Unscrupulous dealers are packaging salmon to give the impression it was smoked in Scotland, but it is often likely to have come from Canada or Scandinavia.

The Scottish Salmon Smokers' Association is offering prizes to encourage shoppers and shopkeepers to help to stamp out the copycat packaging. A particularly blatant fraud might win the interest

Jail sanitation 'appalling'

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Prisoners at a London jail are still having to throw paper parcels of human waste from cell windows to avoid "appalling" sanitary conditions, a year after the prison's board of visitors first highlighted the problem.

Now the Home Office, which is criticized today as "highly irresponsible" for having allowed public health dangers to continue at Wandsworth prison, south-west London, has promised a pilot scheme to install integral sanitation in cells at the jail.

The latest annual report of the Board of Visitors, the

prison's official watchdog, says prisoners and officers frequently have to paddle through other men's urine towards the end of the "sloping out" session, as the drains cannot cope with the volume of use.

Mrs Pat Saunders, chair-

man of the board, said in the past few weeks it had been given the "fantastic" news that a pilot scheme would begin soon to install a wash-basin and toilet in each cell.

However, installation would take a very long time, she said. Drainage problems would continue because of the

inadequacy of the plumbing.

The board repeats in the report last year's concerns about human waste thrown by prisoners from cell windows. It is collected in double-thickness plastic bags to be taken away by the local authority in a skip once a fortnight.

● The Governor of Brixton

British researchers develop slimming pill to burn off fat

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

An experimental drug which helps the overweight "burn off" unwanted fat is being developed by British researchers.

The drug, which could revolutionize the slimming industry, has produced startling results in tests on volunteers.

It has the potential to tap the huge international market in slimmers' pills: unlike other tablets, it is not an appetite suppressant but appears to stimulate the human metabolic rate.

In the tests, women and men volunteers, each weighing about 16 stones, lost an average of almost 34 lb when they took the drug daily for 18 weeks, in combination with a low-fat, high-fibre diet.

The results of the trial, carried out at the medicine and biochemical medicine departments of Ninewells Hospital, Dundee, are published in this week's issue of the *British Medical Journal*.

According to the researchers, Dr Alan Connacher, Dr Roland Jung and Dr Peter Mitchell, the drug, called BRL 26830A, confers a "clinically significant advantage on weight reduction".

The drug was taken by 16 volunteers, most of them women in their early 40s who had been referred to the hospital for treatment for obesity. A similar group were

given a placebo and both went on controlled diets.

At the end of the 18 week study, the patients who had been given the drug had lost almost a stone more than those who had taken the placebo.

Dr Connacher said yesterday: "When used along with a diet, it seems capable of helping people lose 50 per cent more unwanted weight than would be achieved by a restricted diet alone."

"We think it is very exciting. It will be some years before it would be available over the counter and at first would probably have to be issued only on prescription, but there is no doubt that it has huge potential, not just in Britain but in many Western countries."

Many more tests will be necessary before BRL 26830A reaches the public, however. Although the researchers know what it can achieve, they do not completely understand how it works.

They believe that, as studies on obese rats have shown, it increases the metabolic rate so that the body converts excess fat into heat. "The exact mechanism of action is as yet undetermined", they report in the journal.

The only side-effect experienced by the volunteers was shaky hands and tremulousness, which lasted for up to an hour after the pills were taken

but became less noticeable two weeks after the study began.

Twelve of the 16 had these symptoms, but in nine of the patients they were regarded as slight, and in only one case was the reaction considered severe.

Dr Connacher said: "Most of the volunteers in our research were women and if this drug does reach the public it will probably be women more than men who will be attracted to it because it is they who are usually more worried about being overweight."

"As far as we can tell, the drug seems to be more effective in achieving weight reduction the longer it is taken. Eighteen weeks is quite a long time to take a drug, but at the end of that period our patients were in good health."

The researchers say in the journal that there is considerable professional interest in BRL 26830A, partly because of the reservations doctors have about using other drugs to treat obesity by suppressing the appetite.

These drugs, including amphetamines, are not widely used for this purpose because they often cause serious side effects, such as high blood pressure and depression. They may require long-term use, and in the case of amphetamines are at risk of being abused by some patients.

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator Toast to a Tuscan dream

A celebratory bottle of champagne was Mr Nigel Whitehead's first wish after learning that he had won £8,000 in *The Times* Portfolio competition.

"It was the obvious thing to do. That sort of money does not come every day and I am very excited", he said.

Mr Whitehead, a surveyor who lives in Watlington, Oxfordshire, Kent, says he is determined not to let the windfall go to his head.

"It's a nice sum of tax-free money and I wouldn't want to blow it all in one go."

"I think we will be cautious and use it to make a number of things much easier rather than spend it all on one or two things."

With Italy in mind, he added: "It wouldn't pay for it entirely of course, but a little place in Tuscany might be nice."

Mr Whitehead, who is aged 48 and married, was the sole winner of the weekly prize.

'Wicked waste' of transplant organs

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Intensive care staff at some hospitals are failing to ask relatives of brain-dead patients to consider donating the patient's organs for transplant, surgeons say.

The omission is causing a "wicked waste" of potentially life-saving organs, according to Professor John Salzman and Dr Robert Taylor, writing in the *British Medical Journal*.

The two transplant specialists are campaigning for a change in the law to oblige hospital staff to approach relatives. They say that the present waiting list for kidney transplants of more than 3,500 patients will double in the next 10 years unless changes are introduced.

"Every day there are people being denied one most basic and fundamental right and there is no public outcry. That is the surest uncontested right to donate one's organs for transplantation when death occurs in circumstances that would make those organs usable for another person", the surgeons say.

"The chances of a person's organs being used for transplantation depend very much on the attitude prevailing in the intensive care unit to which the injured person is admitted, and the willingness

there to expend considerable effort and resources on caring for donors until the organs can be removed."

Professor Salzman, of the University of Wales College of Medicine, Cardiff, and Dr Taylor, of the transplant unit of the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle upon Tyne, say that in a Gallup poll published last year 68 per cent of people favoured transplantation and were prepared to be considered as an organ donor in appropriate circumstances.

"It cannot be correct for the expressed wish of such a huge majority to be thwarted by the failure of staff in some intensive care units to ask a simple question of the relatives of a patient who has been diagnosed as brain dead."

The surgeons reject the "feeble" argument that families are sometimes too upset to be asked. "The universal experience of donor families is the great comfort derived from some good salvaged from a family tragedy."

They add: "Unless steps are taken to avoid the wicked waste of transplantable organs, in 10 years' time the (kidney) dialysis population will be so large that the cost of maintaining it would horrify the wealthiest of nations."

Aids victims

Employers warned on bias

By Staff Reporters

Employers who insist on a negative test result for Aids as a condition of employment are today warned they risk being in breach of the Sex Discrimination Act.

Mrs Olga Aiken, a member of the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service, says that because the majority of sufferers are homosexual males, fewer men than women will be able to meet such requirements.

"The employer will have to justify the requirement in business terms. Because the infected person may have years of productive life ahead, this may be difficult."

The only legitimate concern for the employer, she says, is the likely effect on work and attendance. "An employer

who singles out Aids while ignoring even more risky illnesses or participation in hazardous sports is discriminating against men."

Mrs Aiken, writing in the latest issue of *Personnel Management*, says a company policy of avoiding the employment of high-risk groups is clearly discriminatory and clearly discriminatory. To operate a testing policy for existing staff would be even more difficult and run the risk of a breach of contract and constructive dismissal.

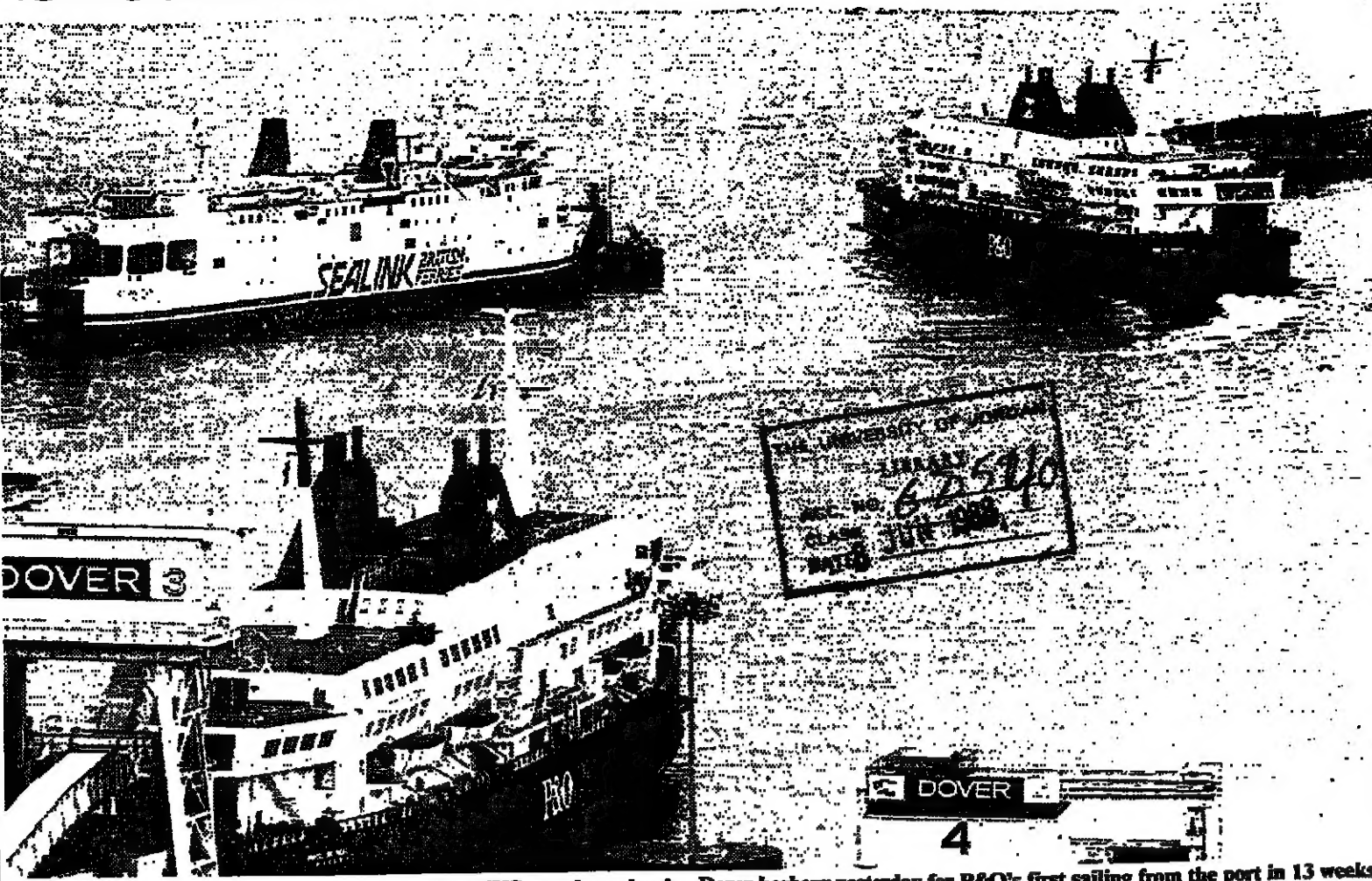
When ill health problems eventually arrive, the victims should be treated in the same way as any other sick employee. They should be given sick pay and any permanent ill health benefits to which they might be entitled.

Mrs Aiken, the magazine's legal correspondent, points out that all medical information is confidential. "If, however, the employee does agree to disclosure, the information should be restricted to those who need to know."

Some doctors are testing patients for traces of the Aids virus without their consent and contrary to British Medical Association advice, a senior association member admitted yesterday.

Dr John Marks, chairman of the BMA Council, speaking on the BBC-1 programme *This Week, Next Week*, said tests were being carried out by a minority of doctors in a few hospitals, who might have to justify their actions to the General Medical Council or in court if sued by patients.

Shouts fail to stop strike-busting ferry



The Pride of Bruges, crewed by strike-breaking NUS members, leaving Dover harbour yesterday for P&O's first sailing from the port in 13 weeks.

By Boris Johnson
Zebrugge

With three short and one long horn, the P&O ferry *Pride of Bruges* signalled a victory that echoed from the cliffs as she slid out from Dover towards Zebrugge.

At 1.13pm yesterday, the moorings were cast off for P&O's first commercial sailing from Dover, using National Union of Seamen members, since the beginning of the 13-week strike.

Holidaying families who were part of the 86-strong taken passenger complement watched in silence as the NUS pickets dwindled to specks on the shore.

A shout of anger went up from a crowd of dockers as the boat passed the harbour wall. There was a cry of "sink you bastards", shouts of "scab" and obscene gestures from seamen on a nearby merchant ship.

Minutes earlier P&O's chairman, Sir Jeffrey Sterling, had spoken from the bridge to reassure the 60 crew members that they had done the right



Sir Jeffrey Sterling, chairman of P&O, and Captain Peter Hutchinson of the ferry *Pride of Bruges* yesterday.

thing. He told them: "I am not prepared to be threatened or intimidated by anyone. I more than understand what many of you are going through, and the conditions in Dover."

"It was a tragedy that this strike happened, but what we are doing is right."

Many of the strike-breaking crew acknowledged that they may suffer for it. A catering rating aged 16, from Deal, who refused, like all of the crew, to be named, said: "They say there won't be any

violence, but there already has been. I will not cross the picket lines unless I can go by bus."

Others showed no sympathy for their former colleagues. An assistant steward aged 40 said: "They can take the terms in the red book, or lose their jobs. There are thousands of others who will take them."

"They've had three months to sort this out, and in three months they've got nowhere. The NUS does not pay for my mortgage."

Ordinary passengers could

National standstill in ferry dispute

Continued from page 1

are at a standstill. Seamen at Holyhead, north Wales, began an indefinite strike on Saturday. The St Brendan second crew are expected to decide at a meeting today whether to sail.

Ferries manned by French crews, together with abnormally light cross-Channel Bank holiday traffic, are expected to minimize delays for travellers returning home today.

At least 29 return services, including Jetfoil and Hoverspeed, to the Normandy ports are expected to run from Dover and Newhaven regardless of what operation P&O decides to mount.

Mr McCloskie said that since the *Pride of Bruges* was predominantly a freight-only service and only one of P&O's 11 Dover ferries, the move "does not even dent our strike, let alone break it".

He said: "Twelve days ago the company was saying that it would have five ships operating within a week. The fact

that after all this time P&O can manage only a partial service to Zebrugge gives the lie to the claim that most of the workforce accepts the company's latest offer."

Sealink said it had had no response to its appeal to 1,000 Kent-based seamen to cross picket lines and return to work on the Channel ferries.

Mr Chris Garnett, the company's European sector director, said it was in a ridiculous situation where P&O was more than likely to be operating its ships, with Sealink, which is not in dispute, unable to operate.

Mr Norman Willis, the TUC general secretary, told a May Day rally yesterday that the right to negotiate changes and not have it imposed is the central issue in the seamen's dispute. The TUC will meet the NUS for talks tomorrow.

Mr Graeme Dunlop, managing director of P&O, blamed the dispute yesterday on working practices inherited from previous owners.

Services likely to sail today

Hoverspeed
Dover to Calais: 13 crossings;
Dover to Boulogne: five. (Normal services).

Britannia
Portsmouth to St Malo: Portsmouth to Caen; Plymouth to Roscoff; Plymouth to Santander: normal services, already full.

Sally Line
Ramsgate to Dunkirk: five return sailings, car reservations essential, no room for coaches.

North Sea
Hull to Rotterdam or Zebrugge: one sailing expected.

B+I
Holyhead to Dublin: two return sailings; Pembroke to Rosslare: one. (Normal services).

Oran Line
Sheerness to Vlissingen: two return sailings. (Normal service).

DFDS
Harwich to Esbjerg: one return sailing; Harwich to Hamburg: one outward bound only.

Three RAF men murdered by IRA in Holland

Continued from page 1

tors of this crime are speedily brought to justice and to punishment."

The Dutch authorities "deeply deplored" the attacks. Some officials expressed concern that the killings here might be linked to Dutch action last year in extraditing two IRA escapees from the Maze prison to Britain. Dutch police officials warned of further possible incidents in a new wave of IRA terror against British targets in

Europe.

But the consensus among investigators appears to be that the killings were almost certainly revenge for the Gibraltar operation, and that an IRA hit team had probably been monitoring the movements of off-duty servicemen in West Germany and The Netherlands for some time before carrying out the murders.

At a press conference held yesterday in a school at Nieuw Bergen, the Attorney General of Den Bosch, Mr R.A. Gons

selves, said: "I was outraged that an attack like this was made on innocent human beings, regardless of them being British servicemen."

None of the identities of any of the men involved has been released, but all are believed to be stationed at the bases in Laarbruch, Wildenrath and Bruggen.

At 4am, 60 to 70 Nieuw Bergen residents were evacuated from their houses because police feared that a second car, a BMW with

British number-plates, might conceal explosives.

Later in the day, several streets in Nieuw Bergen were cordoned off, and about 80 residents evacuated after a car with British number-plates was discovered.

● BONN: British servicemen stationed in West Germany have been told to "exercise vigilance" after the killings (A Correspondent writes).

A spokesman for the British Army of the Rhine in Moenchengladbach said he

would not give any details of security precautions being taken. Nor would he say specifically if security had been increased after the incident in Gibraltar, although it was implied.

"We don't discuss security," he said. "It is normal, after an incident like this unexpectedly happens, that unusual precautions are reviewed and updated. If an incident happens anywhere in the world, we don't just sit back."

RSPCA prospecting for a share of the petfood tin mine

By Rosemary Unsworth
Retail Affairs Correspondent

More than 13 million cats and dogs are bought in Britain, fed by dog owners who spend nearly £900 million a year on their animals' wellbeing.

Now the RSPCA, in spite of the risk of howls from its vegetarian membership, has decided to go into the highly competitive world of selling cat and dog food to improve the charity's finances. On May 23 it will launch its own brand, made by a Lincolnshire manufacturer and supplier of supermarket chains, to raise about £250,000, or 1p from each can.

Kangaroo meat, which the society believes is increasingly used in pet food, and whale products have been excluded from the product, Duo,

which will bear the RSPCA logo and sell in large grocery chains.

But the RSPCA has a formidable task in taking on the four multinational companies which dominate the UK petfood business, the largest in Europe. They are Mars through its subsidiary, Pedigree Petfoods, which has 60 per cent of the market, Dalgety through Spillers with 23 per cent, and two smaller groups, Quaker and Nestlé through Carnation.

All concentrate on heavily advertised branded goods, such as Whiskas, Winalot, Chunky and Go-Cat.

A Consumers' Association survey has proved what most owners already know to their cost. Cats prefer more expensive brands such as the leader, Whiskas, dogs are less choosy.

Manufacturers, who are constantly watching behaviour while animals eat in research laboratories, acknowledge there are various ways of persuading pets in early life to eat the less expensive brands. Owners should mix up brands in the same colour, sized and shaped bowls and put the food out at room temperature while the pet is out of the room.

Only when the cat or dog tucks into one brand, should the owner remove the other. The order of the bowls should be reversed at the next feed. The procedure should be repeated with different brands until an overall winner emerges. In the meantime the pet should not eat treats to spoil its appetite.

Dr Alan Walker, a nutritionist for Spillers, suggests that owners should

not show any dislike of a particular food, as animals are extremely observant of their owner's own fancies. Face pulling when opening a tin may make an animal dislike that brand for ever.

The bulk of canned pet food, which accounts for 75 per cent of sales of dog food and 94 per cent of cat food, is made of meat and fish products, discouraged owners from buying scraps, is made from by-products of cows, sheep, pigs and poultry rejected for human consumption, according to a report on pet foods by Euromonitor, the market research group.

The use of horse meat is forbidden by the Pet Food Manufacturers' Association and is too expensive, anyway, because it is eaten by humans on the Continent. But in the Consumers' Association survey

high quantities of gristle, rind and skin were also found in some supermarket own-label brands, including Sainsbury.

Most food is made from offal, including tripe, lung, and spleen which are then mixed with minerals, vitamin concentrates, jelly and gravy so they can be sold as "complete" meals. Dog foods are also mixed with meal and biscuits as the animals need those products more than cats.

Labels on cans state what they contain by ingredient, although the information tends to be non-specific, and nutritional content. Where cans are marked "with rabbit, mutton or pichard" those should comprise at least 5 per cent of the named meat but artificial flavourings are found only in traces.

Raiders torture couple and attack young child

A man and a woman were tortured with thumbscrews by two thieves who sprayed ammonia into the eyes of the woman and her daughter aged three before stealing more than £5,000 from a house in Eltham, south-east London.

Their one-and-a-half-hour ordeal ended only when neighbours alerted by the man's screams called the police.

Police said the woman, Mrs Toni Bottomley, aged 31, whose father-in-law runs a DIY store in nearby Lewisham, had several times told the two men where she thought money was kept but she was unable to find it.

They found the cash after ransacking the house in

Arbroath Road and screwing tight martial arts handcuffs to the thumbs of a family friend who was held face down with his hands behind his back.

The two men were directed by a third man who kept in touch by radio and ordered them to "keep searching".

Mrs Bottomley opened the door to the first intruder, a smartly dressed man who came to the front door carrying flowers.

Last night Mrs Bottomley, who is six months pregnant, was being comforted by relatives. She and Sophie were allowed home from hospital. The man, who has not been identified, was also allowed home after treatment.



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£100, the fares will be on us. AA Relay Plus costs just £11 per year and is only available to members of our Relay Service. But if you would like to join, there are really only two times you should consider doing so. As soon as possible before your next breakdown. Or after. To find out more about AA Relay Plus, simply contact your nearest AA Centre for details.

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Legal aid 'is facing threat of collapse', survey says

The legal aid scheme is close to collapse with about 40 per cent of solicitors' offices doing criminal legal aid either dropping or considering dropping the work altogether, according to a survey published today.

Forty-one solicitors' offices gave up criminal legal aid work in January and February, the survey shows. If the rate continues, it could mean as many as 700 solicitors' offices dropping the work by the end of this year. At the same time, 27 per cent of offices have given up or are seriously thinking of giving up matrimonial legal aid work.

The Law Society survey is published 48 hours before the Legal Aid Bill has its second reading in the Commons.

In a separate briefing paper to MPs, the society warns that those eligible for civil legal aid have been cut from 80 per cent of the population when the scheme began in 1950 to just over half.

Mr Henry Hodge, chairman of the society's legal services committee, says the fall in eligibility levels amounted to a "hidden cut" in legal aid. Since 1979, a quarter of the population had lost the right to legal aid. The Government had not said in its Bill how it planned to arrest the decline.

The survey of solicitors doing legal aid work was undertaken because of wide concern that many no longer consider the work viable. The survey says a "staggering 80 per cent and more" gave inadequate pay as the reason for dropping the work. Other factors were long hours and stress.

The society says: "The results of the survey confirm that the situation is now very

serious and is growing worse by the day".

It says the figures are in direct contradiction to those cited by the Lord Chancellor. It calls for action, "before the situation is so desperate that clients are unable to find solicitors prepared to take on their legal aid cases".

The survey is based on more than 4,000 responses, representing 35 per cent of offices doing legal aid work. Since 1986, the numbers giving up criminal or matrimonial legal aid and duty solicitor work have exceeded the numbers starting it.

The society says the figures show the low morale of practitioners and "clearly demonstrate the potential threat to the provision of legal services".

It says: "The reason is shown to be the Government's unwillingness to increase legal aid rates of remuneration in line with increases in solicitors' overheads". The result is solicitors cannot do legal aid work without considerable losses to their practices.

The society calculates that a rise of 38 per cent would be needed to restore criminal legal aid rates to 1981 values. The Lord Chancellor agreed this year to a rise of 7.4 per cent in London and 5.4 per cent elsewhere.

The society is pressing the Government to re-insert into the Bill a statutory duty that it pay "fair" rates for legal aid work. Instead, the Bill includes a duty on the Lord Chancellor to consider various factors. He has wide discretion to raise the rates, subject to consultation with the profession, but he can take account of "the cost to public funds".

Motorway repairs

Sky patrol traps speeding drivers

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

Police are using an aeroplane to trap motorists allegedly speeding on a recently opened stretch of the M42 south of Birmingham.

Using a Vascor radar gun from between 1,000 and 1,500 feet, officers monitor a vehicle's speed then radio to a patrol car further along the carriageway.

Eight drivers have so far been caught and summoned to appear in court for allegedly travelling at between 100 and 110mph.

The sky patrol is operated by the Midlands Air Operation Unit, which is jointly run by the police forces of West Midlands, West Merria, Warwickshire and Staffordshire.

Another stage in the upgrading of the A21 trunk road from the M25 to Hastings, East Sussex will be completed this week. Mr Peter Bottomley, Under Secretary of State at the Department of Transport, will open a by-pass at Pembury, east of Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

The elimination of the Pembury bottle-neck is one of a series of improvements in progress or planned on the A21. Motorway repair works until next Monday:

London and South-East

M1 London: contraflow, jns 4-5 (Edgware-Harrow).
M1 Buckinghamshire: lane closures, north jn 14 (Newport Pagnell).
M4 Berkshire: lane closures, west jns 13-14 (Newbury-Hungerford).
M25 Hertfordshire: lane closures, jns 24-25 (Potters Bar-A10).
M11 Essex: contraflow, jns 6-7 (M25-Harrow); lane closures, jns 8 (Bishop's Cleeve), jn 10 (Duxford); maintenance, south jns 5-4 (Loughton-North Circular Road).
M20 Kent: lane restrictions, jn 11-12 (Hythe-Cheriton).
M25 Surrey: lane closures, 7pm-6.30am, jns 11-13 (Chertsey-Staines).
M3 Hampshire: inside lane, hard shoulder closed both ways, jns 5-6 (Hook-Basingstoke).
M40 Thames Valley: lane restrictions, both ways, jn 5 (near Stokenchurch).

Midlands

M5 Hereford/Worcester: contraflow, jns 3-6 Droitwich/Worcester North; Lane closures, jns 4-8 (Bromsgrove-M50).
M6 West Midlands: South-bound entry slip closed, Salford Circus.

North

M6 Cheshire: contraflow, jns 16-17 (Kingsgrove-Sandbach); slip and link road closures, jns 21A, 22 (M62-Newton).
M6 Lancashire: lane closures, jns 26-27 (M58-Standish); contraflow, jns 29-31 (near Preston).
M61 Lancashire: northbound lane closed, jns 9-M6; 50mph limit.
M6 Cambridgeshire: contraflow northbound, jns 41-42 (Wigton-Carlisle).
M56 Gtr Manchester: Exit slip roads closed, diversions, jn 5 (Manchester airport).
M62 Gtr Manchester: lane restrictions, jns 12-15 (M63-Swinton).
M62 Lancashire: lane restrictions, jns 21-22 (Milnrow-Ripponden).
M62 West Yorkshire: contraflow, jns 25-26 (Brighouse-M606 Bradford).
M63 Gtr Manchester: Single lane, jns 3-6, delays at airport; restrictions, Barton Bridge, peak hour congestion; flyover construction, Forwood roundabout, Stockport.
A1 (M) South Yorkshire: Contraflow, slip road closures, A635-A638 interchanges. Diversions.

Wales-West

M4 Wiltshire: off-peak lane closures eastbound, jns 16-15 (near Swindon).
M4 Avon: lane closures, both ways, jns 18-19 (A49-Bristol).
M4 South Wales: westbound lane closures, jn 28 (near Newport).
M5 Gloucestershire: lane closures, both ways, jns 9-12 (Tewkesbury-Gloucester).
M5 Avon: contraflow, south jn 14 (Thornbury).
M5 Somerset: lane closures, restrictions, both ways, jn 24 (Bridgwater) jn 27 (Tiverton).

Scotland

M8 Lothian: eastbound hard shoulder only, jn 3 (A899).
eastbound entry slip closed, jn 3.
M74 Strathclyde: contraflow, jn 4 (M73); lane closures, jn 6 (A723).
M90 Strathclyde: northbound, one lane jn 1 (A90).

Information compiled by AA Roadwatch.

Press net cast wider

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

The Press Council has widened its search for a successor to Sir Zelman Cowen, who retires as chairman in October.

Lord McGregor of Durris, who chaired the Royal Commission into the press in the 1970s, was favourite — and is understood to remain on the short list. Another contender is Lord Barber of Wentbridge, a former Chancellor.

However, a committee established by the Press Council is believed to have spoken to other candidates.

Remarkable secrecy surrounds the search for a new chairman. The lack of progress meant the issue was barely discussed at last week's meeting of the full council.

Lord McGregor is known to have strong support from the Newspaper Society, which represents provincial newspapers, and from proprietors of Scottish weeklies. The delay in nominating a successor indicates a rift between members of the council's committee.

Victory for V-restorers



When the Vulcan V-bomber made its maiden flight in 1952, these six men above were part of the team that built the aircraft at British Aerospace, in Woodford, Cheshire. Led by Mr Douglas Godfrey, aged 66 (far right), 70 of his colleagues have saved a Vulcan from the scrap heap and restored it in readiness for a flight next month (Photograph: Magi Haroun).

WHITEHALL BRIEF by David Walker

Trading in the gradings for wit and achievement

At the end of the month Whitehall loses, at least for three years, a Civil Servant across whose desk has flowed a good part of the stream of exports on which Britain's position as a successful trading nation depends.

Mr Fred Chapman, principal finance officer for the Export Credits Guarantee Department (the acronym ECGD is preferred nowadays), is taking a secondment to become European corporate treasurer for the equipment company Varty.

The move will leave a considerable gap in the operations of a body which — squeezed by the shrinking market for export finance and forced to put aside large sums in case of losses on Third World trade — even Mrs Thatcher's free market Government has found indispensable in securing Britain's place in world commerce.

Mr Chapman, aged 48, joined the Civil Service as an 18-year-old executive officer and, rising through the ranks, has accumulated wisdom about how credit for foreign trade is organized and insured and the priceless skills of adapting a complex organization to cope with rapidly changing political and financial climates.

ECGD has not always won friends. Conservative ministers, including Mr Alan Clark, Minister for Trade, who answers for it in Parliament, considered privatization, rejected it, and are now strong supporters of ECGD's role.

Even its critics acknowledge how ECGD has geared itself to speedier processing of applications and how (Mr Chapman's special contribution) its internal workings are more clearly based on the performance of individuals than gradings and Buggin's turn. There is much more emphasis here on the chap who can deliver", Mr Chapman says.

ECGD insures exporters against the multiple risks of foreign commerce, sells guarantees against non-payment, and subsidizes the provision of credit for exporters. It is a financial institution (supporting in 1986-87 some £9 billion worth of fixed-rate export finance) and a department of state, pursuing the time-honoured political objective of promoting the sale overseas of British goods and services.



Mr Fred Chapman: leaving a gap.

Performing both roles simultaneously takes a breed of official who can hold his corner in the board rooms of the merchant banks, whose loans may take years to be repaid, while keeping faith with colleagues steeped in short-run politics.

Mr Chapman's office looks up Ludgate Hill towards St Paul's and beyond. In the City are located many of ECGD's clients and co-advisors. He daily crosses and recrosses between public and private sector: the chasm which ministers often see separating the sectors does not feature in ECGD's topography. It takes a capacity not readily associated with Whitehall: making commercial judgements with public money.

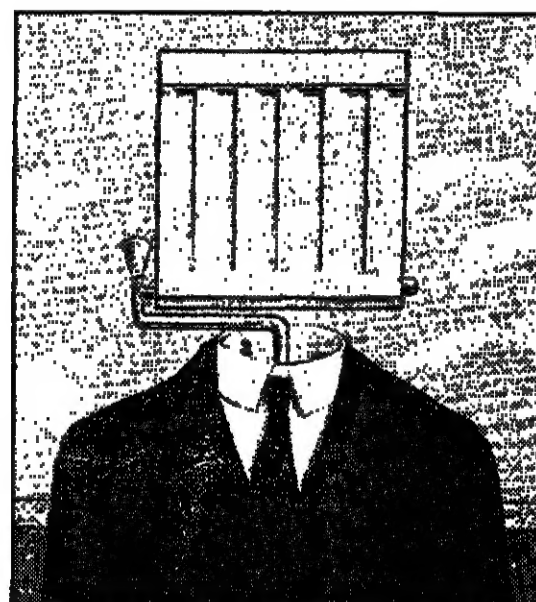
In an ideal world, he muses, ECGD officials would share in the profitability of the whole as well as enjoying proper performance bonuses (and losing money if mistakes were made). It is not that money is the sole motivation, he says, equally, it isn't some high flown ideal of public service. The motivation is a more subtle blend, chiefly a pleasure in seeing judgements come right.

His secondment ends in 1991, a year before the integration of European Community markets. The performance of British exporters from 1992 on — at least in terms of the provision of finance and insurance — may well depend in some measure on where he is then tempted to apply his experience.

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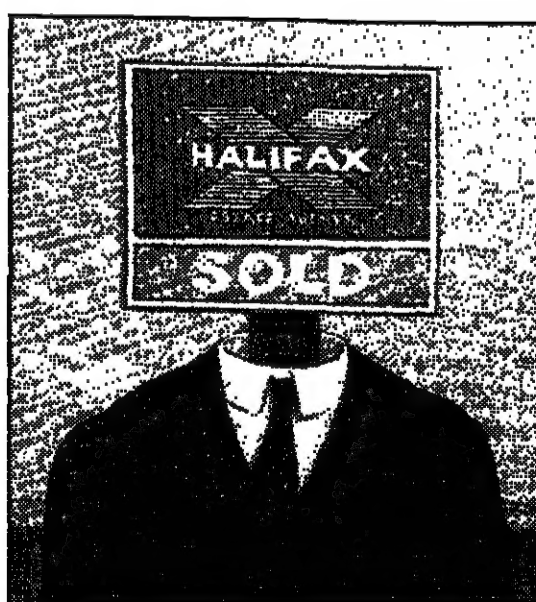
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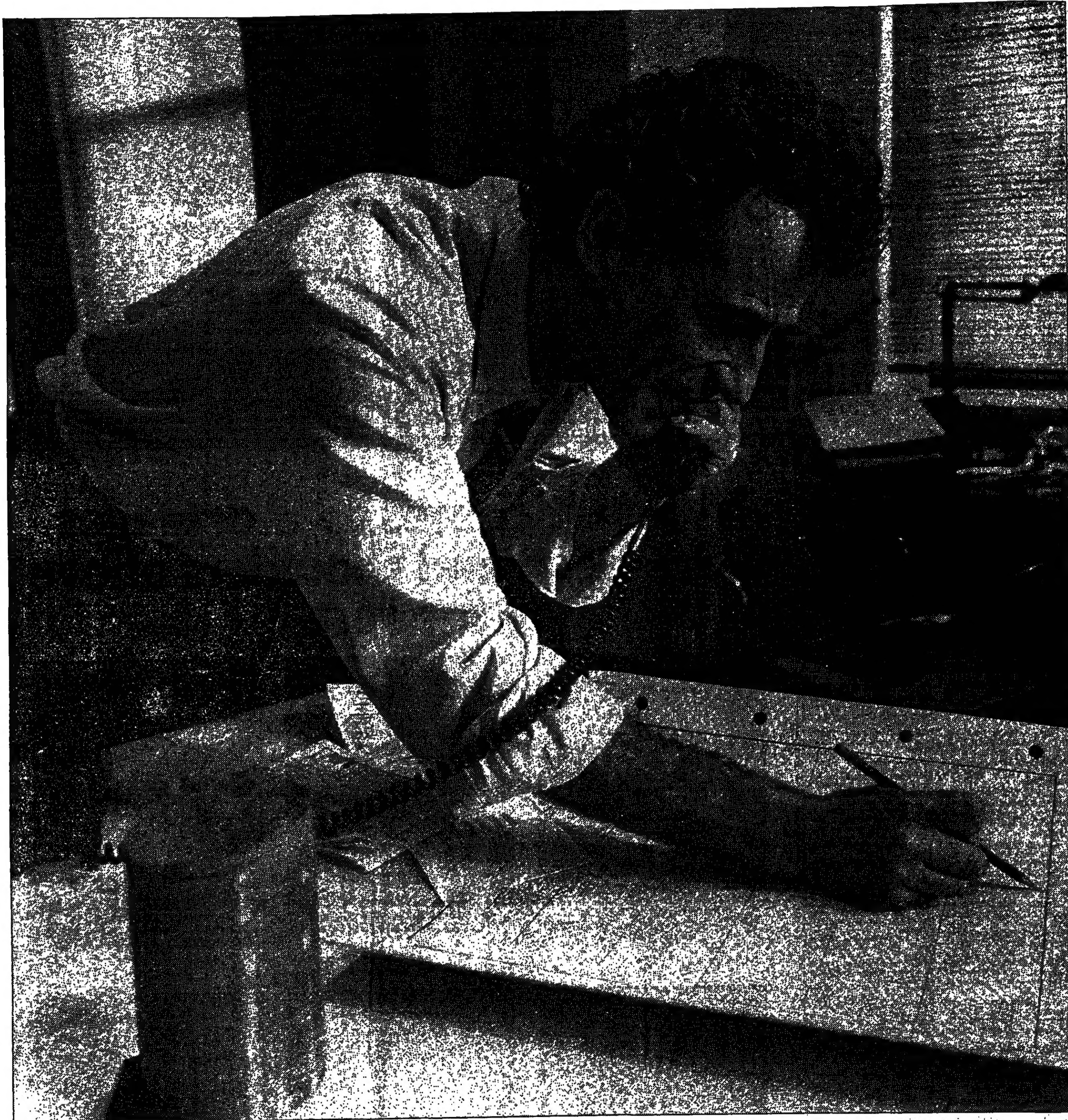


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"Amazed!"

"So were we. When are you back?"

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"Ecstatic. Even after six dry holes."

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Tamil landmine kills 26 on bus

Colombo — A land mine explosion killed 26 bus passengers and injured 35 yesterday during a weekend of violence in Sri Lanka, in which 45 people died and 41 were hurt. The passengers on the state-owned bus were mainly farmers and fishermen (Vijitha Yapa writes).

Security sources blamed the main Tamil guerrilla group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, for the bus attack at Sittaru in the Eastern province. On Saturday, six Sri Lankan soldiers, travelling as guards, and five civilians were killed when their bus was ambushed by the Tamil Tigers near the six-mile post at Awarantalawa in Vavuniya in the Northern province.

Nouméa news curbs

Nouméa — A news blackout was ordered in New Caledonia last night after French officials said the colony was verging on war (A Correspondent writes). According to M Philippe Berges, the cabinet director at the French High Commission in Nouméa, the decision was made so as not to endanger the lives of hostages held by pro-independence Kanaks.

A French Navy ship and military helicopters were deployed to fire on rebel positions at the weekend in an escalation of the 10-day conflict with the militants. The fighting came as the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front proposed intervention by the United Nations to break the stalemate over the 23 hostages held by separatists on the outer island of Ouvéa.

EEC aid reform call

Mr Christopher Patten, Minister for Overseas Development, will tomorrow call for big reforms in the EEC's aid programme for the Third World (Andrew McEwen writes).

British taxpayers contribute £223 million a year to the Community's £1.4 billion programme to finance specialized schemes. Mr Patten will point to flaws in most of them in a speech to the Royal Commonwealth Society in London. A scheme called Stabex, to which £700 million has been committed, may be doing more harm than good, he will imply. Stabex is designed to protect countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific which depend on exporting commodities against unforeseen drops in their earnings. But Stabex failed to treat the real problems.

Zimbabwe aid levy

Harare — President Mugabe yesterday announced plans for a levy on workers and employers to finance Southern Africa's first "welfare state" social security scheme (Michael Hartnack writes). The Zimbabwean Government will collect an amount equal to 8 per cent of an employee's gross salary to provide unemployment and retirement benefit. President Mugabe told a May Day rally that this will mean a monthly contribution of approximately £1.50 from the £30 pay packet of the country's lowest paid workers, with employers finding an equal amount.

Required to testify

Washington — Miss Fawn Hall, Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North's secretary, Mr Robert Earle, a former National Security Council official, and Mr Thomas Castillo, a former CIA officer, have been named by a grand jury investigating possible criminal charges in the Iran-Contra affair as unindicted co-conspirators (Michael Binyon writes).

That means that although they will not be prosecuted, they will be required to testify against Colonel North and the three other defendants in the case.

Flight ceiling on jets

New York — The Federal Aviation Administration has barred older Boeing 737 airliners from flying above 23,000 ft until they are inspected for the type of structural failure that is believed to have caused a section of fuselage to rip off a Hawaiian plane on Friday (Charles Bremner writes).

All of the twin-engine planes that have completed more than 50,000 flights are subject to the order.

Le Pen uses Paris rally to deliver Chirac run-off snub

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

Labour Day, a holiday of great emotional significance for the Left in France, was a great success. Flanked by his closest advisers, a faintly surreal group of coal miners in full underground gear, complete with dust-smudged faces and shouldered picks, and a "Farmers for Le Pen" representative with a pitchfork, M Le Pen devoted his first 20 minutes to the themes which most move and motivate the four million-plus French voters who backed him. Only then he moved to the burning question of how "true French" should decide what to do in the second round.

As for M Mitterrand, who he vigorously denounced as a liar, deceiver and enemy of French patriotism, his emphatic advice was "non, non et encore non". Not a single vote, he urged: the choice between

demagogue stuff, as appealing to the labourers, shopkeepers and modest businessmen who had converged on the capital in a vast fleet of buses as to the conspicuous number of fashionably dressed upper middle class couples rubbing shoulders with them.

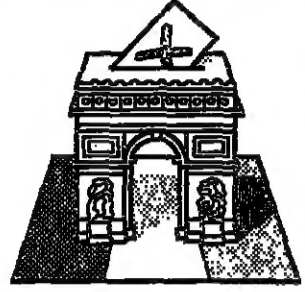
Beneath an umbrella held aloft by one of the smugly blazered (and, it must be acknowledged, immaculately disciplined) muscled who provide M Le Pen's security on the campaign trail, the National Front leader stuck closely to the themes that had proved so beneficial to him in the first round of voting: the rottenness of the self-perpetuating, privileged political leadership, interested only in power and patronage.

His message for the crowd, hunched against the downpour, was avidly received: you have been betrayed, abandoned, tricked and exploited for too long by the traditional parties, only the National Front can speak for your modest hopes and ambitions, your fear of a France that may no longer seem French to you.

There is a keen and heartfelt belief among many of the National Front's followers that their views and objectives are mocked and ignored by the supposedly more sophisticated inhabitants of the big cities. In the crowd I met an affluent travel agent from Marseilles who had told me six months ago M Le Pen's vote would be far greater than anyone then imagined.

He is not a fascist, not even a right-winger by inclination, but he feels, as did everyone who turned out yesterday, that the message of the National Front is still not understood in the corridors of power.

"Write this for your British readers," he implored as we sheltered beneath a dripping chestnut tree. "For every street corner who turns out to shout 'get rid of the immigrants with Le Pen', there are thousands, like me, who simply feel that those who shape politics in our beloved country have lost touch with what the ordinary people think and feel. The worst thing you could do as a foreign observer would be to think that once this election is over, we will all go home and do what we are told once more."



the incumbent President and M Chirac may be "an alternative between the bad and the worst", but the most important objective had to be getting rid of "Mitterrand and his socialism".

On the other hand, M Le Pen declared, if M Chirac is beaten — as seems highly likely to judge by the current opinion polls — then he has only himself to blame.

"Some of you may feel that it is necessary now to vote for the residual candidate of the right, without your support signifying anything more than a desire to avoid the very worst," M Le Pen told the multitude.

"Some may decide to wait for signals that the candidate of the right can truly hear our voice." And others, he declared to loud cheers, may even decide not to forget the years of neglect, the insults and the unjustified accusations on racism and xenophobia, and "refuse to register any vote at all". It was textbook

May Day fury in Warsaw



Members of a police snatch squad beating pro-Solidarity demonstrators outside St Kosciuszko Church in Warsaw yesterday as they tried to drag them away. About 12 people were held.

Opera provides refuge

From Richard Bassett, Warsaw

In times of crisis in Poland even the pagan gods offer some refuge for Solidarity activists on the run. As police swooped on the eve of the May Day celebrations, at least a dozen of the names on their lists escaped the round-up not by fleeing to the nearest Catholic Church but to a night of Wagner's *Ring* at the Warsaw Opera House.

With uniformed and plainclothes police checking identity papers at every street corner, almost the only place in the Polish capital free of police was the Opera. As ambassadors drew up in black limousines for the first performance since 1908 of Wagner's masterpiece, a less smartly turned-out group was making its way through one of the stage exits mingling with seamstress teams putting the finishing touches to a Val-kyrie's coat of chain mail for

an equally epic struggle to be enacted shortly on stage.

"I was queuing for a tram when the police started asking for everybody's documents. Someone thrust a ticket into my hand and just told me head for the Opera," a teenage member of the anti-government Freedom and Peace Movement said during the prelude to the *Rheingold*.

Two members of the banned Solidarity trade union movement who had in any event planned to attend the opera said they did not envisage going back home for another four days at least.

"We came here with a small bag for the next few days as the police will surely be waiting for us if we return," one of them said, adding that they had been arrested on the day before May Day two years ago.

Each year on certain politically sensitive dates which are

usually communist holidays, the authorities take "precautions". These include banning alcohol in public places and detaining leaders of opposition groups. This year, however, the round-up has been more extensive as a result of the industrial unrest which has directly challenged the Government's reforms.

The Solidarity activists encountered during Wagner's *Ring* were adamant that many of their number would escape the round-up this year.

"We were at least warned this year and most have of us have decided to go into hiding, but at this moment even if half the Government is sitting in a box above us this is the safest place for us in town. In the present conflict between Solidarity and the Government, the authorities see it as vital to neutralize the movement," one said.

Gibraltar shootings row

Witness defends version of IRA bomber deaths

From Harry Debellus, San Roque, Spain

The witness who said in a television report that the IRA terrorists had their hands up when they were fatally shot in Gibraltar last March, Mrs Carmen Proetta, said here yesterday that she would not retract a single word from that description, and she angrily rejected printed allegations against her.

"I saw it all from the kitchen window of our flat," she insisted in an interview with *The Times*, describing how her attention was first attracted by the sound of sirens. "It was about 3.30. We had finished lunch and I was washing up. The window is right alongside the kitchen sink. When I heard the siren, I looked out of the window."

"A police car screeched to a halt, and four men got out. I saw a couple walking towards Spain. I heard a single shot. The couple turned and looked back, putting their hands up. Then there was more shooting, and I saw the girl fall on the ground and the man fall on top of her."

"One of those who was doing the shooting — a big, blond man — crouched down and fired more shots into the couple as they lay there. I was so shattered, I couldn't talk at first. After a while, I started screaming to my family. My son had gone out. My cousin had fallen asleep, and I said, 'Wake up! Wake up! Someone's been killed.'"

Since she was wearing slippers and a dressing gown, she said, she did not go down into the street right away as many others did.

Mrs Proetta did not go to the police to volunteer her

information, but she did tell a Spanish Civil Guard policeman at the frontier as she returned to Spain, where she normally lives.

The following Sunday, she said, a woman who was assisting the Thames Television team to prepare its report on the Gibraltar IRA shootings asked people in the area where the incident took place if they had seen it. She said that her mother told her: "I didn't, but my daughter did."

Mrs Proetta said: "When they asked me to tell them what I saw, there seemed to me to be no reason not to do so. If the police had asked me I would have told them too." She denied receiving any payment or compensation for telling her story on camera.

She is willing to give the same information to the authorities, she claims, "but they have not asked me to. I spoke to my husband this morning and he said there had been no inquiries from police at our flat. I am not the only person who saw it. There are several others and, as far as I know, police have only talked to one of them."

Mrs Proetta said the police could easily contact her, either via her husband at the Gibraltar flat, or at the family's flat on the Spanish side of the fence at San Pedro de Alcántara. "They know precisely where I live, since the Gibraltar police chief, Joe Canepa, is like a stepbrother to me. His father was my stepfather. When our father died in Spain, Joe came and stayed with us at our place in Spain until all the funeral

arrangements had been completed. He has always had my respect. I have nothing against Joe Canepa."

Mrs Proetta is puzzled and annoyed by serious allegations against her which appeared in various British newspapers, and denied that she was "anti-British", or that she was one of the 44 who voted against the continuation of British rule in the Rock in the Gibraltar Referendum of 1967. "I didn't vote," she said.

She said: "What some people

him she never made that statement. She reacted to the reported suggestion of Lieutenant-Colonel George Styles, the bomb disposal specialist who assisted the Thames Television documentary team as a technical adviser, that the terrorists' extended arms — which appeared to her to be a gesture of surrender — might have been an automatic reaction to the impact of bullets, by saying: "I am not expert, but their arms were up after the first shot and before the series of shots."

As far as the description offered by one witness, Mr Stephen Bulloch, a lawyer, was concerned, she said: "I don't know what he saw. I only know what I saw." Mr Bulloch was quoted by one newspaper as saying that the outstretched arms appeared to him to be a gesture of self-defence.

She said that her lawyers were considering legal action to be taken against publications which have labelled and defamed her.

Mrs Proetta, questioned about a report that she was beaten and her car painted in the colours of the Union Flag because of her political views in 1967 about the future of Gibraltar, said flatly: "That's incorrect. That's completely false."

Press reports named her as a partner in Eve International, a company described by some publications as an escort service which furnished female companions to the wealthy on the Costa del Sol.

"I was a partner in a company called Eve Inter-

national about six years ago," she said. "This started with clients who wanted to establish a business in Spain, and I agreed to help them, working through a lawyer. They needed a Spanish citizen to hold the majority share because the law so required."

"But after a year, I heard that these people were going to hire a discotheque and I went and told them that I didn't approve, and if they went ahead with it I would leave the company. They agreed to my

quitting, and I ended my association with the company about one year after it started. Lawyers in San Pedro will vouch for this."

She added that the company was set up as an estate agency, but believes it never began to operate. She said she had no knowledge that her partners had criminal records, as some publications allege. "They certainly didn't have any record in Spain," she said.

Mrs Proetta's reaction to press coverage of her private life, such as a huge headline

over her picture on the front

page of one paper saying "The Terrorist's Wife", was "I married my husband when I was 18. We have three children and we have a good marriage."

"We are not separated, as some people have claimed. From age 15 to 17, I was a student nurse in a normal hospital in Gibraltar called St Bernard's. I was on my way to England after that to study to become a midwife."

"About six months after that, I married my husband. After that I had kids, was a normal housewife. I dare whoever is making this allegations to come forward and say at what stage in my life I have been a 'tart'." She refused claims that her husband has been jailed or convicted in Spain.

Mrs Proetta, who was accused in print in London of spending most of her time in the jet-set playgrounds of the Costa del Sol, such as Marbella and Puerto Banus, said that her work as a court translator frequently took her to the courthouse in Marbella, but she could not remember when she was last in Puerto Banus.

"I don't have time to play," she explained. "I work very hard, I take care of my children. And I do social work, like visiting the sick and visiting for an organization I belong to called the Catholic Movement." She also frequently assists, without charge, British tourists or residents on the coast who find themselves in need or in trouble. She showed more than 100 letters received from grateful Britons.

The couple, now living in the US, are believed to have provided valuable intelligence information about North Korea's air apparatus, Kim Jong Il, who apparently treated the couple well in order to get them to help build up the North's film industry.

In late 1986, a North Korean diplomat travelling through Copenhagen airport defected after handing a note to passport controllers asking for asylum.

The man, whose name the Danish intelligence authorities refused to reveal, was later handed over to another West European country at his own request.

Mr Kim's defection may have been triggered by the exploits of Dr Kim Man Chol, who fled North Korea by boat together with 10 relatives in 1987, observers said. After arriving in Japan, he came to Seoul where he was given a reward by the Government and has since settled.

Noted South Korean film maker, Shrin Sang Ok, and his film actress wife, Choi UnHee, were kidnapped 10 years ago, but fled to the West in 1986, when they fished into the United States Embassy in Vienna asking for political asylum.

Tit for tat threats precede London meeting on Angola

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

South Africa is approaching the London talks on a settlement of the Angolan conflict with extreme caution and has made it plain it will withdraw if Luanda persists in pressing for a meeting of the United Nations Security Council to protest at the occupation of its territory by Pretoria's forces.

The talks, which begin tomorrow, will bring South Africa and Cuba, which has an estimated 35,000 troops in Angola, face to face diplomatically for the first time, along with the United States and Angola itself.

London is believed to have been chosen as a venue because of Britain's strong links with South Africa and the black frontline states, and possibly because of the success of the Lancaster House talks for Zimbabwean independence in 1980.

South African troops have been bogged down for several months in battles around the strategic southern Angolan town of Cuito Cuanavale and have lost tanks, irreplaceable aircraft and have had at least 31 men killed in the fighting. Losses suffered by Angolan Government and Cuban forces have been disproportionately much higher.

The South African-backed Angolan rebel movement, Unita, is being excluded from the London talks as is the South West African People's Organization (Swapo) which operates under the protection of the Angolan Government against South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia.

During the weekend Angola threatened to walk out of the talks if the South African delegation brought along any representatives of Unita.

Swapo has already protested angrily about its exclusion and Dr Jonas Savimbi, the Unita leader, is also expected to react strongly. But diplomatic sources here point out that the absence of both organizations makes it clear that the London talks are to be about peace in Angola and will not be tied, as before, to an internationally acceptable settlement of the Namibian question.

However, the development is being linked in some quarters to last week's visit to Cape Town by a senior emissary of President Chissano of Mozambique and a statement by

the South African Government that the possibility of a first meeting between Mr Chissano and President Botha was discussed.

Dr Chester Crocker, the US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, is expected to chair the London talks. Pretoria will be represented at senior official level by Mr Nel van Heerden, Director-General of the Department of Foreign Affairs, although Cuba is sending a senior Politburo member, Señor Jorge Risquet Valdes, and Angola is sending its Foreign Minister, Mr Afonso Van Dunem.

Dr Crocker has been trying for eight years to bring about a settlement in Angola but his efforts have foundered due to a loss of confidence by both Pretoria and Luanda in the United States.

But both Dr Crocker and the Reagan Administration are eager to achieve a foreign policy success before the November presidential election and the talks tomorrow are being seen partly as a result of American pressure.

● LUANDA: Angola intends to approach the talks with an open mind in search of positive dialogue, a reliable source said (AFP reports).

"We expect the other parties involved to show the necessary understanding to enable us to reach a solution that is satisfactory for everyone," he said. Observers said that Angola considered Pretoria's presence at the talks essential in order to bind South Africa to any peace agreement.

If the Cuban withdrawal is the key issue for Washington, Luanda is demanding in return that the first moves be made in settling Namibia on the way to independence, together with an end of South African and US aid to Unita.

According to Western sources, Angola has proposed a temporary withdrawal of Cuban forces. The 20,000 stationed in the south of the country would leave within 18 months, while the remaining 15,000 would be pulled out over four years.

At the same time, Luanda has tentatively asserted that it is flexible over the issue of Namibian independence, in accordance with the terms of UN Resolution 435.

Korean government official defects to Seoul via Europe

Seoul (AFP) — The highest ranking North Korean government official to defect to South Korea arrived here yesterday via Bangkok after obtaining political asylum during a trip to Western Europe, a South Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

The official was identified as Kim Chong Min, aged 45, a senior official in North Korea's Public Security Ministry.

The spokesman refused to reveal the name of the West European country where Mr Kim made his request for political asylum, saying that his government strongly desired to remain anonymous. However, the country had provided the necessary

arrangements for Mr Kim to be sent to Seoul.

South Korea may obtain important intelligence information from Mr Kim whose work concerned internal security in North Korea, according to reliable sources here.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the authorities would conduct a thorough investigation into his motives for defecting before making any public announcement. He added that Mr Kim was carrying a North Korean diplomatic passport, indicating that he was travelling on official business.

On arrival Mr Kim passed

through the airport's VIP lounge accompanied by South Korean officials, who whisked him away from waiting reporters. He looked tense but not tired as a horde of press photographers milled around him.

There have been several North Korean defections over the years. In 1967, a top North Korean journalist, named Lee Seon Kim, who held the post of vice-president of the North Korean Central News Agency, defected to the South through the truce village of Panmunjom. However, he was found to be a double agent after he tried to return to North Korea two years later through Hong Kong where he was caught and brought to

Seoul. He was convicted of espionage for the North and executed.

Mr Kim's defection may have been triggered by the exploits of Dr Kim Man Chol, who fled North Korea by boat together with 10 relatives in 1987, observers said. After arriving in Japan, he came to Seoul where he was given a reward by the Government and has since settled.

Noted South Korean film maker, Shrin Sang Ok, and his film actress wife, Choi UnHee, were kidnapped 10 years ago, but fled to the West in 1986, when they fished into the United States Embassy in Vienna asking for political asylum.

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China's Hong Kong laws fail to convince Taiwan

From Our Correspondent, Taipei

Officials and private citizens in Taiwan are unimpressed by the new "Basic Law" for Hong Kong and do not see it as an encouragement to further closer political relations with the Chinese mainland which enjoys little trust here.

This is despite the remarkable progress made during the past year in the Nationalist-controlled island toward political liberalization and more informal contacts with the People's Republic across the Taiwan Strait.

The Basic Law is a piece of Chinese legislation drafted in Peking and published in rough draft last week. Some Hong Kong public figures took part in its drafting and on the whole expressed themselves satisfied with it. However, it contains dubious points, in the eyes of critics, which will make Hong Kong more subservient to mainland con-

rol than the 1984 Sino-British Declaration envisaged.

Despite legal prohibitions still on the statute books, Taiwanese citizens are now trading with the mainland, mainly through Hong Kong, corresponding with relatives via the International Red Cross, and even paying officially-sanctioned visits to their birthplaces.

But union with the mainland is another matter, despite apparently generous terms offered by the latter in 1982. The islanders earn on average 13 times the mainlanders' income, their intellectual and artistic life is freer, they can travel more easily, and now that military law has been lifted the prospects of a genuinely democratic system are much better than before.

The island has huge foreign reserves, and has been obliged to appreciate its currency from

40 yuan to the dollar to 28 in the past year. The US is still dissatisfied with access to the Taiwan market, but officials say: "We cannot do the Americans' marketing for them." Many American firms feel the local market of some 20 million people is too small to justify the expenditure of big sums on promotion.

Taiwan's own small industries turn out most of the manufactured goods needed there, though the new liberalisation has brought French brandy, fashion goods and other luxuries into the shops. The tourist industry is booming with large numbers of Japanese visitors, who are well enough liked despite their previous 75 years of occupation of the island.

The art and literature scene is lively and many books are available in cheap pirate editions, against which foreign

publishers continue to protest. Cars and motorcycles are made under licence from Japanese manufacturers, but Japan by no means dominates the local economy.

Under President Lee Deng-Hui, the first head of state to be of Taiwanese origin, some progress is likely to be made in reconciliation between mainland adherents of the Kuomintang (Nationalist Party) who fled here with Chiang Kai-Shek in 1949, and the local people whose ancestors originated mostly in the coastal province of Fujian.

Military law was lifted last July together with foreign currency restrictions on amounts up to \$5 million (\$2.7 million). The political priorities are to encourage the confidence of the civilian legislature and heal old wounds with the retirement of elderly officials.

Aborigines petition the Queen

From Christopher Morris
Brisbane

Aboriginal activists and white supporters staged a noisy but peaceful protest in front of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh yesterday as they arrived for morning service at St John's Cathedral in Brisbane.

The Aborigines waved their traditional red, black and yellow flag, carried banners demanding land rights and chanted: "Shame, shame."

The Queen appeared to ignore them as she went inside the cathedral, while counter-demonstrators sang "God save the Queen".

The Aborigines agreed to a truce during the service after the police promised to deliver a petition to the Queen signed by relatives of some of the 100 Aboriginal people who have died in police custody since 1961. A Royal Commission headed by Mr Justice Muirhead has been set up to investigate these deaths.

In their petition, the 300 relatives asked the Queen to grant clemency to all Aborigines in custody when she opens Australia's new Parliament House in Canberra next Monday. They also demanded land rights.

The Aboriginal protest was supported by the Most Rev Sir John Grindon, the Archbishop of Brisbane and Primate of Australia. In his address, he specifically mentioned the plight of the Aborigines, who have inhabited the continent for 40,000 years.

After the service the Aborigines resumed their demonstration, chanting noisily as the royal couple left. Later, the archbishop offered his sympathies to the protesters.



The Queen meeting bellringers after a service in St John's Cathedral, Brisbane, yesterday.

Another leading churchman, the Rt Rev George Hearn, Anglican Bishop of Rockhampton, has also spoken out. Aboriginal hopelessness was caused by a lack of identity and lack of dignity following the loss of their land, he said.

Yesterday's demonstration was the second staged by the Aborigines in 24 hours. More than 3,000 marched through Brisbane on Saturday to protest about World Expo '88.

Many wore tribal face and body markings and carried traditional weapons. The Aborigines had hoped to see the Queen, but were halted by police outside the Expo site.

They were led by Mr Michael Mansell, an Aboriginal activist, who condemned Expo as part of a propaganda exercise to promote a favourable image overseas. "They are trying to project the image that everyone in Australia is equal and has the same rights. So why is it that we can't join in the bicentenary and Expo? What is it about the white man

that makes us beggars in our own country?"

In a spectacular opening ceremony, Mr Hawke - who did not mention the 4250 million Expo presents Australia with a significant opportunity to show the world what they are capable of.

Last night the Queen and the Duke left Brisbane on board the royal yacht Britannia for a three-day voyage south to Sydney on the next stage of their three-week tour.

Japanese Prime Minister visits London

Takeshita faces trade questions

From David Wattr, Tokyo

The visit of Mr Noboru Takeshita, the Japanese Prime Minister, to Britain starting tomorrow is an important test for him both personally and internationally.

His aim is to pacify and preempt any European criticism of Japan at a time when trade and relations with the US are increasingly problematic and Washington has moved from a position of dominance to partnership in the West.

But Mr Takeshita's success will depend more than usual on his own personality and his ability to get on with Mrs Thatcher in a scenario, when seen from the Japanese viewpoint, of uncomfortable unpredictables.

When he visited Washington earlier this year, he found that the Administration was more than ready to make a smooth success of his stay.

Japan's principal worry, the form of the trade Bill then being considered by Congress, was shared with the Administration. Outstanding problems were solved in the days before he arrived, and the visit was carefully scripted to give the appearance of what the Japanese press calls a "Ron-Noboru" relationship.

The visit to London cannot be scripted so carefully. While Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and Lord Young, the Trade Secretary, have visited Japan in the last few months and spoken of the "new attitude" they found, Mrs Thatcher apparently does not share their forecasts of friendly relations untroubled by trade frictions. The concern at how she and Mr Takeshita will get on is palpable.

The vast differences in their personalities and styles - his soft-spoken blandness contrasting with her outspoken directness - could be either a boon or a bane to what is likely to be an important element in the relationship between the two countries.

Mrs Thatcher and Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, Mr Takeshita's predecessor, shared a willingness to speak out and, while the former Japanese

leader found her difficult at times, there was a respect between the two.

Mr Takeshita, who made constant references to cue cards and briefing papers during a pre-visit meeting with foreign correspondents, would like broad-brush discussions on the management of the world economy and his three-pronged foreign policy of Japan "contributing more to the world".

That includes a speech on the Euro-Japanese relationship in London, a June 1 speech on Japan's efforts for peace at the United Nations, and the announcement of an increase in foreign aid to more than 0.3 per cent of GNP to be made at the Toronto summit of the seven leading industrialized nations.

Mrs Thatcher signalled early on that she wanted straight answers on the two principal outstanding issues - tax rates on whisky and the entry of two more British firms into the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

Since Mrs Thatcher last discussed liquor tax with a Japanese prime minister, a lot of Scotch has slipped down Japanese throats and the situation, for domestic political reasons, has not advanced one iota.

At the Tokyo summit in 1986, Mr Nakasone assured her it would be part of his overall reform of the tax system. He could not drag it through Parliament over the objections of his own party members, under pressure from business, before he left office last year.

Since then, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) has ruled that the Japanese liquor-tax system contravenes its regulations.

Despite Mr Takeshita's much-vaunted talent for quietly building a consensus, and the party's approval of the outline of tax reform, the business community is still being just as obtuse about it.

Mr Takeshita can truthfully tell Mrs Thatcher that the massively preponderant Lib-

eral Democratic Party is behind the reform, but passage of the legislation is still far from guaranteed unless business gets behind it.

Four new British entrants to the Tokyo Stock Exchange start business late this month, but Barclay de Zoete Wedd and James Capel, want seats. The exchange, however, is still advancing the rather low-tech argument that there is insufficient space for further entrants. The British want entry within a year, while the



Mr Takeshita

● A reputation for building consensus ●

Foreign Ministry hints that something might be possible in 18-24 months.

Mrs Thatcher signalled to the Japanese Ambassador in London what the UK would like to happen and followed this up in a hard-hitting interview with *Yomiuri* newspaper, ensuring that the discussions will not be the cosy sessions that Mr Takeshita had hoped for.

The paper quoted Mrs Thatcher as hinting that Japan was intent on running a permanent trade surplus with the rest of the world. She told *Yomiuri*, which has the country's largest circulation, that she did not know whether Japan's enormous trade surpluses were due to cultural or organizational differences or because of innumerable trade barriers but the situation must be discussed by the countries

concerned. Despite much-improved European exports to Japan, the trade gap between the two is continuing to expand and that hint of mutual discussion of the "Japan problem" is enough to set alarm bells ringing since the potentially negative implications of European market unification in 1992 have dawned in Tokyo.

That date is behind the strategies of both sides - the Japanese seeking assurances from Britain that it will help to keep the EEC bloc open for Tokyo's business post-unification, and Britain seeking to suck in as much Japanese manufacturing plant and capital as it can beforehand.

Mr Takeshita, aged 64, began teaching English after graduation from Waseda University in Tokyo and was elected a prefectural assemblyman at the age of 27, becoming a Member of Parliament in 1958.

He began building his excellent list of contacts within the ruling party when he was appointed deputy secretary to the Cabinet in 1964 by Mr Eisaku Sato, the then Prime Minister.

Mr Takeshita later served as chief Cabinet secretary to Mr Sato, and was re-appointed to the post in 1974 by Mr Kakuei Tanaka, the Prime Minister. He was later Construction Minister, one of the most important ministerial posts because of the amount of patronage at the minister's disposal. He became Minister of Finance in 1979, a position he held until 1986, and Prime Minister last November.

His wife, Naoko, recently wrote in a monthly magazine that she never imagined the humble rural English teacher she married would become Prime Minister. After a spell teaching, she always thought that he would run the family sake brewery in the village where he was born in western Japan. Mrs Takeshita also revealed that her husband is always making people laugh with his imitations of former occupants of his office.

Gorbachov and Ligachov chat as May Day celebrations begin in Moscow

Afghan pact brings Western envoys back to Red Square

From A Correspondent, Moscow

Western ambassadors, including all 12 EEC envoys, attended the annual May Day parade in Red Square for the first time since the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan in December 1979.

Sir Brian Cartledge, the British Ambassador, said the EEC had ended its boycott of official Soviet parades in recognition that the Geneva accords on Afghanistan, signed on April 14, were a "step in the right direction". Soviet troops are to begin a phased nine-month withdrawal from Afghanistan on May 15.

Mr Jack Matlock, the US Ambassador, whose country is a guarantor of the Afghanistan accords, said that after the signing of the Geneva documents "I consider it appropriate to resume attendance at these meetings". He added that he had also decided to attend the parade because of the forthcoming Reagan-Gorbachov summit.

Mrs Raisa Gorbachov, the wife of the Soviet leader, told Western reporters that she was "looking forward to renewing acquaintance" with President Reagan and his wife, Nancy. Mrs Gorbachov and her daughter, Irina, circulated among selected party officials and their wives while the two-hour parade passed by.

Mr Gorbachov's chief lieutenant, Mr Yegor Ligachov, intrigued Western reporters by raising his hands together in a victory sign when he walked on to the Lenin mausoleum before the parade. Mr Ligachov, a conservative hardliner, is rumoured to have been removed as the Com-

munist Party's ideological watchdog after allowing the publication of an article considered to be an "anti-perestroika manifesto".

He and Mr Gorbachov chaired as the Politburo members took their places on the podium to review the parade by hundreds of thousands of cheering Muscovites.

Mr Ligachov also made the same victory gesture three times to supporters below at the end of the parade.

The debate between the Communist Party's conservative and reforming wings — personified by Mr Ligachov and Mr Gorbachov respectively — has intensified as the party prepares for a key conference to assess the progress of perestroika.

On Saturday, after Mr Ligachov was rumoured — for the second time in less than a month — to have lost his ideological portfolio to Mr Aleksandr Yakovlev, Mr Gorbachov's Politburo ally, a letter in *Sovetskaya Kultura* suggested that Mr Gorbachov himself was in danger of being ousted at the June meeting, even though he had the support of the Soviet people.

Other Soviet commentators have admitted that the party is in deep conflict over the speed of change and the necessity for glasnost (openness) to continue to dwell on previously suppressed Soviet history, particularly concerning the Stalin era.

Mr Gorbachov's supporters argue that greater "democratization" is necessary to motivate the workforce to contribute to the economic

reforms. But conservatives, including Mr Ligachov, say that the current de-Stalinization campaign is discouraging thousands of people who have devoted their lives to building Communism.

Many of the floats at yesterday's parade reflected the move to "self-financing", under which the bulk of the centrally-planned economy is now being influenced by market forces. One float showed a bureaucrat armed with a giant pencil marked "forbidden", trying to stop a giant cog from turning. This was clear criticism of the central agencies held responsible for resisting the Gorbachov reforms.

● **EAST BERLIN:** Uniformed and plain-clothed police swarmed central East Berlin yesterday and arrested at least five people outside a church in a bid to stave off dissent during East Germany's official May Day rally.

● **SEOUL:** Thousands of South Korean students and workers demanding free trade unions fought pitched battles with riot police after a May Day rally in Seoul yesterday, witnesses said.

● **MANILA:** Philippine soldiers opened fire to disperse May Day protesters near Manila and blocked 10,000 torch-bearing workers who marched on President Aquino's palace denouncing her for refusing to raise wages.

● **ISTANBUL:** Two suspected terrorists were killed in a clash with security forces and police detained more than 100 people who attempted to commemorate May Day.

Church freedom, page 12



Irina Gorbachov watching her father as he greets the crowds at Moscow's May Day parade from the top of Lenin's tomb.



Unrepentant Yeltsin at parade

From Anne Penketh of AFP, Moscow

Mr Boris Yeltsin, the former Moscow Communist Party chief, who was dismissed for "political immaturity" over a speech he made last October, said yesterday that it was not yet decided whether a Soviet weekly would publish a controversial interview he recently gave its German-language edition.

It was the first time he had talked with a Western reporter since his November dismissal. Mr Yeltsin, who is 57, had watched the traditional May Day parade in Red Square from the Central Committee stand. He said he had been working full-time at his new ministerial job for the past month after leaving hospital where he had been treated for heart problems apparently

triggered by his dismissal. "But I don't stay at work until 9 o'clock at night," he joked.

In his interview with a Soviet journalist for the German-language edition of the weekly *Moscow News*, available here on April 17, Mr Yeltsin showed no regrets about the speech which had led to his downfall. In it he reportedly criticized the slow pace of perestroika, and attacked fellow Politburo members.

He was dismissed on November 11, and lost his non-voting Politburo seat in February.

He also told *Moscow News* that he had been brought out of hospital and drugged in order to attend the November meeting at which he was dismissed after making a

confession reminiscent of the Stalin show trials.

The Russian-language version of *Moscow News*, which is in the forefront of the Gorbachov reform campaign, has so far failed to publish this interview. Asked yesterday whether it would appear in Russian, Mr Yeltsin smiled wryly and said: "It's not yet been decided."

The party is currently racked by an internal struggle between conservatives and reformers as it prepares for a crucial meeting in June to assess the progress of perestroika.

The former Moscow party boss, looking fit and wearing a well-tailored brown overcoat, added that his health was not back to "the Sverdlovsk

level", referring to his earlier career in his home town in the Urals.

Mr Yeltsin, who was named first deputy chairman of the State Construction Committee after losing his party post, had last year presided over the May Day parade from the Lenin Mausoleum with the other members of the Politburo. His wife was wiping away a tear as the couple left Red Square yesterday.

Mr Yeltsin's speech to the party's October plenum, which has never been published, has caused such speculation that a false version is currently openly on sale for a couple of rubles in Moscow. Mr Yeltsin denounced that version in his interview with *Moscow News*.

Arab death prompts suspension of officer

Jerusalem — An Israeli officer has been suspended for opening fire without sufficient justification in an incident yesterday when a 20-year-old Palestinian was killed (David Bernstein writes).

Israel Radio reported that the officer, a deputy company commander, had been relieved of his duties after an initial inquiry into a clash yesterday morning between an army patrol and stone-throwing villagers at the West Bank village of Fakua, near Jenin.

Israeli soldiers are under orders to open fire only when their lives are threatened. Yesterday's was the first reported instance of disciplinary action being taken for violation of these orders.

Journal halted

Peking (Reuters) — The Chinese Communist Party announced that *Red Flag*, its leading ideological journal, would be replaced next month after 30 years' publication by a "more balanced" magazine.

Four killed

Karachi — At least four people were killed and 40 others wounded in clashes with the Pakistani police in the city's Bihari minority district.

Vessels held

Stanley — Two South Korean fishing vessels were detained by the Falkland Islands fishery patrol for operating without licences.

Punjab deaths

Amritsar (Reuters) — Sikh separatist violence claimed at least nine more lives in the north Indian state of Punjab.

Rail record

Wormburg (AFP) — A West German experimental train reached 252 mph to improve on the world record for speed on rails by 16 mph.

Carlucci interview with The Times

Danes accused of undercutting arms talks

From Michael Binyon, Washington

The moves in Denmark to ban visiting Nato ships carrying nuclear weapons had very serious implications for Nato, and undercut US arms negotiations with Moscow, Mr Frank Carlucci, the United States Defence Secretary told *The Times*.

He also called for greater spending on defence by the Europeans, while praising allied contributions in the Gulf, in co-operative arms programmes and other areas. He welcomed moves to strengthen the Western European Union, and saw it as no threat to Nato's cohesion.

He criticized those who lumped together as "infringers" Spain, Portugal and Greece.

● Nato has to look at increased activity outside its area ●

The Nato countries negotiating United States base arrangements, and said each case was quite different.

Mr Carlucci went on to express his confidence that differences with Moscow on verification details could be resolved and that the Senate would ratify the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty.

He said it was clear that money for US defence would be cut, and that he would rather have a smaller force that was ready and sustainable than a larger one without proper capability.

Since taking over at the Pentagon, Mr Carlucci has spoken out strongly on US-European relations in Nato. In his interview, immediately after his return from the Nuclear Planning Group meeting in Brussels, he underlined the concern expressed by Mr George Younger, the Defence Secretary, over the Danish visit to stop visits of US nuclear-armed ships.

"It's not our intention to interfere in internal Danish

affairs, but we both made the point that being a member of the alliance carries responsibilities as well as privileges," he said. "We're currently engaged in very intensive negotiations with the Soviets on the most far-reaching reduction of nuclear weapons the world's ever seen, and this undercuts those negotiations."

"It is indeed very serious as far as the alliance is concerned. Denmark is a strategically important country, and there is no way we could move away from the 'neither confirm nor deny' policy."

The US could not tolerate such moves, especially in base negotiations with countries such as the Philippines, as they "defeat the very purpose of coalition strategy". This explained the tough US reaction to similar demands in New Zealand.

Mr Carlucci repeated Pentagon calls for higher defence spending by the Europeans. But he also called for an increased US defence budget and criticized congressional critics of Europe.

He admitted that European input had to be measured in more than just GNP terms. The US understood the valid contributions of co-operative armaments programmes, the conventional defence initiative, out-of-area activities, and resources made available for training.

He gave a categorical guarantee that there would be no cuts in the number of US troops in Europe "as long as President Reagan is in office and I am Secretary of Defence". This was why the US had worked so intensively to find another home for the 401st tactical fighter wing, the F16s ordered to leave the Torrejon base in Spain. "The easiest thing in the world for me would have been to deactivate the 401st. I've had to deactivate four ready air

wings as it is, and I elected to try and find a solution to the 401st, which means I'll have to deactivate another one. We are very much opposed to that." He did not sense great sentiment in Congress "at this point in time" — emphasizing the phrase — for withdrawing troops from Europe. No amendment to cut troop levels had been introduced to defence bills now going through Congress. But he gave a



Mr Carlucci: Assurances of no cuts in US troop levels. warning that there was "great sentiment" for the Europeans to carry more of the load. "If that does not happen, it's very hard for me to predict what the Hill will do."

The US, however, wanted to approach the issue through a dialogue and not in a punitive sense. Mr Carlucci had also tried to insist that this should be a Nato matter, not a bilateral issue between the US and the Europeans. He thought most congressmen agreed. He welcomed moves to strengthen the European pillar of Nato — the Western European Union and the Franco-German Brigade, which he saw as "perfectly consistent with the aims of Nato". He did not see this developing into any inner European circle or diversion from overall policy.

And Mr Carlucci saw the allied co-operation with the

US in the Gulf as an "excellent precedent" for co-operation elsewhere. "The allies are going to have to look increasingly at out-of-area activity, and the Gulf is a good example of an out-of-area problem that's clearly in our interest to solve. I know that some allies have problems with that, but it's almost inevitable." He said the US commitment to defend the principle of freedom of navigation was open-ended.

"What, hopefully, is not open-ended is the threat. If the Iranians come to realize they are gaining little by this kind of predatory attack on international shipping, maybe they will cease and desist."

Mr Carlucci clearly recognized the constraints the budget squeeze put on US defence. He said it had been "quite damaging" to the Strategic Defence Initiative, and funding for "Star Wars" next year did not look promising. The US was still committed to a 600-ship Navy, but it would take a while now to reach that target.

"Can we continue to do everything we're doing? I think so — in the sense that we can continue to meet our commitments. That's the key. We're obviously going to meet those commitments with a higher degree of risk." He then made it clear he would not shy away from difficult priorities, nor refuse to contemplate cuts in a way his predecessor, Mr Caspar Weinberger, had.

"I would prefer, as I've said many times, to have a smaller force, but one which is modern, ready and sustainable, rather than a larger force which doesn't have the necessary capability. It seems almost self-evident, but is not a maxim that is always followed."

"And in order to do that, if need be, I am prepared to deactivate additional ships, take down additional squadrons,

reduce force structure and ... terminate additional weapons systems."

He did not see obstacles to an agreement coming out of the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (Start); it was more a case of "pick and shovel" work, and there was more earth to be removed than anticipated.

"The questions of verification have become enormously complex in the Start agreement. And you don't really understand how complex they are until you get into them."

"Furthermore, quite candidly, we are handicapped in the negotiations with regard to mobile missiles because we

● There's an awful lot of work to be done on Start treaty ●

don't know what kind of mobile system we're going to have, if any. Our Congress has been very ambiguous, so how do you develop a verification regime for mobile systems when we don't know what our own requirements might be?"

There were also difficulties in verification of sea-launched cruise missiles, and on space defences. "The bottom line is, there's an awful lot of work to be done." But it was important to recognize how much had been achieved. He did not think the latest disagreement with the Russians on verification details of the INF Treaty was serious. Pentagon officials told him it could be resolved at a technical level, without needing Cabinet involvement.

But he did say, guardedly for fear of encroaching on the Senate's prerogatives, that a failure to ratify the treaty before the summit would "obviously be viewed by the Soviets with some concern". He hoped ratification could move forward next week.

Schluter tipped to gain seats in Danish election

From Christopher Follett, Copenhagen

The Conservative Party of the Danish Prime Minister, Mr Poul Schluter, is expected to make substantial gains in the May 10 snap general elections, called over Nato nuclear policy, according to a Gallup opinion poll published in the Copenhagen newspaper *Berlingske Tidende* yesterday.

The poll predicted that the biggest party, the opposition Social Democrats, was heading for its worst result in 15 years in the elections, which were called after the Government was defeated on a Social Democrat resolution tightening Denmark's ban on nuclear weapons on board warships visiting Danish ports.

The survey showed that the Conservatives, who lead the ruling four-party coalition Government, would increase their number of seats in the 179-seat Folketing (Parliament) from 38 to 41, strengthening its position as the second biggest grouping behind the Social Democrats, who are tipped to

take 51 seats, a loss of three. Despite conflicting poll findings in other recent surveys, most commentators here predicted that Mr Schluter's centre-right Government would continue in some form or another after the election, although there is doubt as to the fate of the Christian People's Party — one of the ruling coalition members — which may not secure enough votes for continued representation in the new parliament.

Overall, the Gallup survey gives Denmark's non-socialist bloc 90 seats (49.5 per cent of the vote), a narrow lead over the socialist bloc which it gave 85 seats (46.1 per cent).

Meanwhile, a newly published survey carried out for the United States Information Agency shows that 82 per cent of Danes support a nuclear-free zone in the Nordic region. In the opinion poll 46 per cent of Danes said they backed the establishment of the zone even if this was incompatible with the country's membership of the Western military alliance. The Dan-

ish resolution has led to sharp criticism from Nato allies. In Brussels last week, Mr Frank Carlucci, the US Defence Secretary, deplored the resolution, saying that it threatened to undercut US nuclear arms limitation negotiations with the Soviet Union.

Mr Carlucci described the Danish move as a challenge to United States and Nato policy. He was speaking after Nato nuclear planning talks that were switched to Brussels from Denmark because of the political crisis.

BRUSSELS: After 138 days without a government, five Belgian political parties have reached agreement to form a new but fragile coalition with a mandate to make reforms that they hope will bring an end to the conflict between the warring linguistic communities (Jonathan Braude).

The veteran Prime Minister, Dr Wilfried Martens, has agreed to head a curious centre-left line-up of French and Flemish socialist and Christian parties and the Flemish nationalist grouping, Volksunie. Barring last-

minute hiccups, the eighth Martens administration will be in place early next week, with a parliamentary backing just large enough to ensure the two-thirds majority needed for constitutional reforms.

But defections, especially among the French-speaking Socialists, could still foil attempts to get the reform package through Parliament, once again plunging the country into crisis and sparking new elections later this year.

Already there have been loud protests from both linguistic communities at a coalition agreement that many see as a sell-out by the main political parties.

The compromise gives a new political voice to the large number of French speakers in six Flemish suburbs on the outskirts of Brussels. Paradoxically, however, overall Flemish control of these areas will be strengthened. Flemish local councillors will also be guaranteed a seat for the first time in Brussels' 19 city-boroughs.

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SPECTRUM

Reference with a difference

To mark the launch today of Ingenuity, our new game, Alan Franks leafs through the history of the world's best known encyclopaedia

If you think the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* is an unwieldy slab of knowledge, spare a thought for the information-seekers of the late 18th century. The first edition took three years to issue in its entirety, from 1768 to 1771, and came in no fewer than 100 parts.

It was the work of three Scotsmen — Colin Macfarquhar, a printer; Andrew Bell, an engraver, and a 28-year-old scholar by the name of William Smellie. Even though their work bore the promise of longevity, they could scarcely have dreamt that their progeny would never be out of print.

Contrary to popular belief, the door-to-door *Britannica* man is a creature of a bygone age, having passed from the scene in the mid-1960s. Today the publishers attract much of their business by such means as counter displays at exhibitions, and the encyclopaedia has become a mainly American business. This is a direct result of four Americans having formed a company in 1897 with the publishers A. and C. Black in order to reprint the ninth edition, which had been published between 1875 and 1889 in 24 volumes. It was really at this point in the history of the *Britannica* that it became a household name among the reading



Andrew Bell (left) and William Smellie, two of the founders

classes, thanks to a series of large advertisements in *The Times*. At the time of the third edition, completed in 1797 in 18 volumes, it incorporated the then quite revolutionary feature of articles by people outside the small staff. What a field of contributors it managed subsequently to muster:

Maltheus writing on population, Sir Walter Scott on chivalry, William Hazlitt on fine arts, Roger on physiology. Then came such as Einstein, Freud, G.K. Chesterton, Trotsky, Stanislawski, Swinburne, Shaw...

The United States headquarters are in a large Chicago office block, where just about the most English thing in evidence is the president, Peter Norton, a graduate of Dartmouth Naval College who joined the company in 1963.

There are several thousand contributors to the *Britannica*, the contents of which remain the responsibility of a 21-strong board of editors (vice-chairman: Lord Quinton, former chairman of the board of the British Library). The encyclopaedia is revised each year, and the set, with its enlarged index, runs at 33 volumes. The company never discloses how many it prints or how many it sells (the same number, since no copies are remastered). There is understandable sensitivity about the price — £1,240 for the cheap set, £2,280 for a fibred-leather set, and £3,500 for real leather. But, as the public relations manager, the promisingly named Robin Sales, points out, you are virtually buying your own library — and a traditional one at that.

I·N·G·E·N·U·I·T·Y Round One

Starting today *The Times* and *Encyclopaedia Britannica* join in presenting Ingenuity, a three-week general knowledge competition. The authors of the first six correct entries to be opened at the end of the competition — when the closing dates and the address will be given — will each receive

a set of the 1988 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, in a blue, fibred-leather Constitution binding, worth £2,280. The answer to each question is a single word or name — but beware! Unlike our teaser questions last Friday, the number of letters in the answers do NOT correspond with the number of

boxes — except for the longest of them. The questions vary in difficulty. To some you may know the answers, but to most you will have to ferret them out. Ingenuity will be played for a total of 18 days, with 10 questions per day. Cut out this coupon and keep it until the end of the competition.

1. Bunbury's racehorse who went to America and founded a dynasty that included Lexington.
2. What is the desirable end-product of ilmenite and rutile concentrates?
3. Who made 81 orbits in a Vostok spaceship?
4. Early man associated with Monte Circeo, Amud, Shanidar, Spy and Le Moustier.
5. Plant-group whose sudden appearance was an 'abominable mystery' to Darwin.

6. Russian foreign minister who gave his name to a famous chestnut pudding.
7. Believing something you don't understand, according to Stevie Wonder.
8. Author whose work was being lampooned in a verse in which Charlotte "like a well-conducted person, went on cutting bread and butter".
9. Modern cathedral with a Sutherland tapestry.
10. Madrid's most famous public picture collection.

Answers to Friday's teaser questions:
1 Pontigny. 2 Eclipse. 3 Dollars. 4 Eastwood. 5 Carmine. 6 Eddystone. 7 Lawn. 8 D'Aubigny

A long and winding love affair

He has skiff'd and sculled, punted and paddled, even been courting by the Thames. But Pearson Phillips has never before seen it as a walk...

I noticed geese being shoofed off a bankside crazy golf course at Bourne End. There was weekend painting and scraping under way among the sailors of Cookham. From an outboard in a riverside marina came the first snarl and buzz of summer. As Ratty explained to Mole in *The Wind in the Willows*, the Thames is not just a river: "It's the River." It has always got "its fun and its excitement". This May Bank Holiday, a new season of river pleasure is opening.

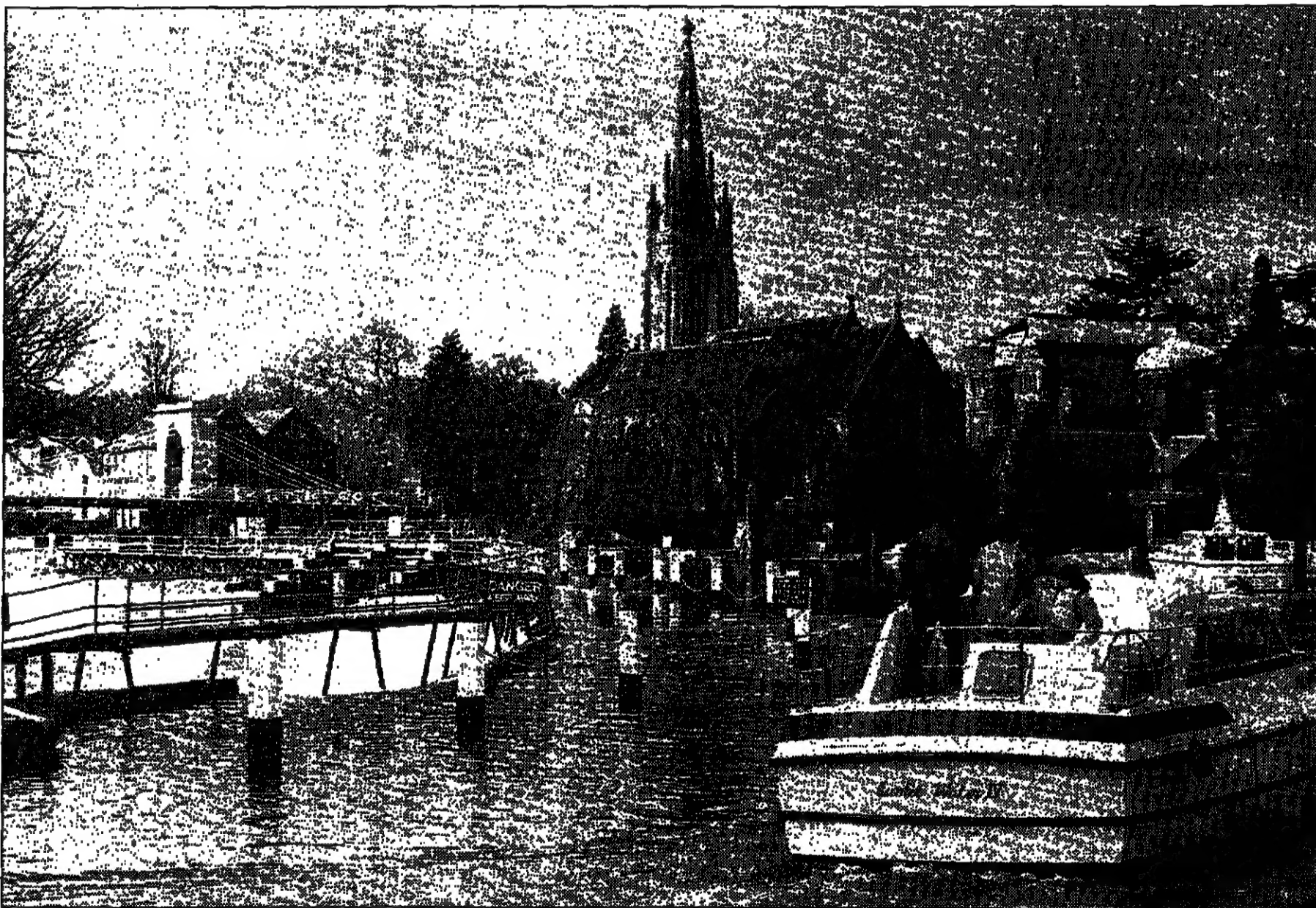
For the sake of literature, I took a stroll past Quarry Wood, near Cookham Dean, which is supposed to be the Wild Wood of Kenneth Grahame's book. It looks much the same as it probably did at the turn of the century, when he wrote about it. But "the fun and the excitement" have changed. In the past 50 years the River Thames seems to have blossomed into one long, well-equipped outdoor leisure centre, offering sport and entertainment for the whole south-eastern urban mass. As part of the urban mass in question, I have tried just about everything. My first roach was caught off the towpath at Staines with bread-paste. I have looked in scorn from my borrowed motor cruiser upon lesser breeds in their obviously hired ones.

I have skiff'd, sculled, punted, rowed, paddled and quenched the resultant thirst in most of the riverside pubs, from the Thames Head in Wiltshire (which lost the Thames when the water receded some centuries ago) to the London Apprentice in Isleworth.

I have even tried what, from current observation, seems to be the most popular river pastime of all: old-fashioned courting. That involves strolling along the river bank towards evening, conversing heavily about the past, the future, and the meaning of life, to the derision of coots and the chortling of mallards.

But what I had not tried, until recently, is to treat the river as a walk.

An uninterrupted riverside footpath, stretching from London to the edge of the Cotswolds, has been a dream in some people's minds for the past 50 years. After much diplomacy and democratic consultation, the Countryside Commission published a route. The stretch from Putney to the source could now be ready in four or five years. A projected free passage along both banks of the heart of London to the Thames



Messing about by the river: the Thames (seen above at Marlow) now offers entertainment for the whole South-east, but author Miles Jebb (left) believes the correct way to travel on it 'is to use your own muscle'



Barrier could take a further 20 years.

For a walker's view of the Thames I made a rendezvous at Kew with a professional pedestrian, Miles Jebb, a retired British Airways executive who is a monument to over-sixties energy. Nowadays he takes parties of

The Thames Path was one of the first schemes to be considered after the 1949 Countryside Act which made provision for the establishment of long-distance paths. It was thought to be too extensive at that time, but pressure from the Ramblers Association and others persuaded the Government to go ahead with it in 1984.

The Countryside Commission appointed a Project Officer, Jennifer Blair, to work out a route. The result is a 225-mile footpath, from the source to the Thames Barrier, which will need four new bridges, plus stiles, gates, footbridges and improvements to the towpath. The work is expected to cost about £675,000.

Blair says she had to expend less effort on persuasion than she had expected. She consulted with six counties, 13 London boroughs,

"three pages of parish councils" and 200 interested individuals. "Some landowners weren't terribly happy about a new section passing through their land, but understood that it has to go somewhere. Only one or two farmers said 'We object. Go away.'"

The Countryside Commission has strong powers to overrule objections. But on the section where the grounds of Windsor

the path goes across land which is not yet a right of way I always suggest an alternative route." His book also includes extracts from Thames-inspired literature, including Lord Denning's deadpan description of the Christine Keeler incident at Cliveden. The Thames Path is unlike any

of the other Countryside Commission long-distance paths. "For a start, it's flat. So anyone can walk it. Nor do you have to dress up in full walking gear and receive dire warnings about the weather. You can do it in any weather, and any dress. Thanks to the public transport available

along the way you can walk as far as you like." His own longest effort was Windsor to Lechlade in a week, progressing at a rhythmic two and a half miles an hour.

One other special thing he finds about the Thames walk is that it is a "continuously unfolding story". There is the excitement of "never knowing what you are going to find round the next bend." There is also the gradual change in the river itself. You can watch it develop from an urban landscape to a suburban recreation ground, to a country stream. "But all the time it is lush and leafy, a piece of ornamental water in the Garden of England."

As we walked upstream from Kew, we got the strange feeling that we were leaving the city behind, although, of course, we weren't. The north bank has been left here in its wild, unimproved state like some African jungle river. The shape of Syon House, with Capability Brown's Grecian boathouse, loomed through the trees.

"I find it exciting that this scene is exactly the same as it was when the 18th-century artist, Richard Wilson, painted it," Jebb said. Except for the jumbos thundering overhead into Heathrow.

The jets seem to worry Jebb rather less than the motor cruisers. "I believe the correct way to

proceed on the Thames is to use your own muscle. The motor cruisers not only sound terrible, they look ridiculous." He prefers the river between October and April, when most of them go into hibernation.

One way to lose both the jets and the motor cruisers is to head for the upper reaches above Lechlade. Unfortunately, the original working towpath, which is the basis of the whole route, ends a mile above Lechlade. When the route negotiated by the Countryside Commission comes into play, this will be one of the finest stretches. But, at the moment, private "No Entry" signs force walkers away from the bank.

Further up, near Kemble (which has a railway station), I followed the river to its remotest source. It is just a faint, dried-up depression running across fields, leading to a shallow, stony hollow and a monument. "This stone was placed here to mark the Source of the River Thames." Maybe. But there is no sign of it now.

Cookham was better value. By the bridge stands Turk's Boatyard, from where John Turk, in his role of Royal Swan Keeper, looks after the mid-Thames swans. From Sandbury in Painswick, each July, with his retinue of swan keepers, he conducts the annual beak-marking census of cypres, called swan-upping.

It was on a bench beside the towpath at Cookham that I found John and Marjorie Prescott, from Putney, who said they go there regularly on spring evenings, "to watch the willows coming into leaf". And also to have a pint of Bakers at The Bel (sic) and the Dragon pub.

There used to be evening river concerts on this stretch in the last century. Singers and pianists were moored on a ferry in mid-stream, delivering "Til sing the songs of Araby" to an audience on the banks and moored in punts.

long these middle stretches: there is a smart private bank and a less smart public one. At Cookham, as might be expected, the good side is on the north, facing south. Here, lucky people live in fine houses of red brick and white wood set behind sheets of green lawn which swoop down to the river's edge. They have boat houses, flag poles, quirky fountains and plantings of cedar and willow.

There are some less grand homes on the working towpath side, too. The path leads through gates across people's front lawns, past loggias stacked with summer furniture. These households are victims of ancient rights of way. Their comments on the Thames Path proposals are anguished: "We came here for peace and quiet. This will bring in rowdies and glue-sniffers."

It is bad luck. But walking, according to Jebb, is gaining popularity as a recreation for "the upper and middle classes". So at least there will be someone who will remember to shut the gates.

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CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1553

- ACROSS
- 1 Wild party (4)
 - 3 Houses group (6)
 - 8 Huge (11)
 - 10 1/1000th inch (3)
 - 11 Cliff shelf (5)
 - 12 Embarrassed (7)
 - 14 Hawthorn (3)
 - 15 Group (3)
 - 16 Succeed as heir (7)
 - 17 Outline (5)
 - 19 Basque terrorist group (3)
 - 22 Dominicans (5,6)
 - 23 Simmered long (6)
 - 24 Graffiti (4)
 - 25 Covering (7)
 - 2 Cheltenham signals unit (1,1,1,1)
 - 4 Protector (8)
 - 5 Forward (5)
 - 6 Distinguished (7)
 - 7 Appear (4)
 - 9 Bullshit (9)
 - 13 Estrange (8)
 - 14 Unsuitable people (7)
 - 15 Club administrator (7)
 - 18 Leisurely walk (5)
 - 20 As well (4)
 - 21 Scots hillside (4)

SOLUTION TO CONCISE JUMBO CROSSWORD PUBLISHED ON SATURDAY

ACROSS: 1 Jean Baptiste Jules Bernadotte 15 Mumble 16 Over 17 Skimp 18 Rhombus 19 Specialty 20 Beret 21 Accidents 22 Headman 23 Overtip 24 Crossword 25 Petunia 27 Set programme 31 Opener 34 Savage 35 Body shop 36 Rationals 41 Empires 44 Exponential 46 Owner 47 Docks 49 Telegrapher 50 Go getters 52 Performer 53 Denouement 55 Brits 58 Indem 59 Compromise 62 Exhales 63 Digitalis 68 Epistolic 71 Corner 72 Leaking 73 Indemnity 74 Decathlon 75 Enhance 76 Gazer 77 Vital 78 Punctum 79 Three billed snipe, see how they run

DOWN: 1 Jumps ship 2 At the last gasp 3 Bibliomaniac 4 Pre- 5 Ivory Coast 6 Tremble 7 Punks 8 Listerine 9 Scin- 10 Empiric 11 Narrator 12 Decays 13 Tickle Mountain 14 EastEnders 26 Adenocarcinoma 28 Two-legged 29 Ray 30 Morning 32 Provost 33 Salacynite 36 Hunch 37 Pseudonym 39 Eggs 40 Send up 42 Insane 43 Salerno 45 Pains 46 Camptog- 51 Eric Linklater 54 Gas 56 Inheritance 57 Pseudonym 58 Indignant 60 Pseudonym 61 Axiomatic 63 Strongman 64 Blue- 66 Trainee 67 Smidgen 69 Thieves 70 Layette 71 Cockpit

TOMORROW



Thursday's local elections will provide the first real test for Malcolm Rifkind's revamped Scots Conservatives

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MAGGIE IN DOGHOUSE

Walking along Downing Street the other day a dog called Smut was completely ignored by Mrs Thatcher. What she probably didn't realise was that Smut is the inventor of the World's greatest new game "WOOF WOOF". Smut says "She was obviously engrossed in a conversation with a complete mediocrity (Cabinet Minister) neither of whom has ever said anything interesting; ever buried anything interesting and has certainly never invented anything interesting!"

WOOF WOOF is available at all good Toy Shops.

MONDAY PAGE

Taking stock of Spock



Childhood champion: Benjamin Spock in 1974 — the time of his supposed 'recanting' — and (below) as he is now, still spreading a philosophy of respecting children

"I still say to parents: don't doubt yourselves." The words have a familiar and comforting echo, and the tone has changed not at all in four decades. Dr Benjamin Spock, the paediatrician whose views have shaped the young lives of a generation (or two), is alive and well and living for the most part these days on his boat off the Virgin Islands.

He is the grand old man of child-rearing whose cradle-shattering tome, *The Common Sense Book of Baby and Child Care*, transformed the lives of a post-war generation of newly-weds and their unsuspecting offspring. For the first time mothers were reassured, not hectored. Grandma thought that she had known best: keep baby regular on the bottle and potty, disciplined and germ-free. Not so. Baby was now to be treated as an individual from birth: cuddling (not godliness) was next to cleanliness, and discipline was a naughty word. "You know more than you think you do," we were told. "Trust your own common sense."

Last week Dr Spock came ashore to reassure us that parental common sense was still quite common. But what of his "babies" who now have children of their own, and some of whom feel driven to taking a firm hand? "The question of discipline has been a sore point with a lot of parents," he explained, "and many have been inhibited by professional paediatricians and child psychiatrists who have all muscled into the child-care field. Many parents have assumed that only the professionals know how to raise children, and this isn't true at all."

In 1974 an unfortunate thing happened. In a humdrum article for *Redbook*, an American magazine, Spock wondered why so many children were "balky, peaky and bratty". He blamed "paediatricians like myself" for having persuaded parents that the experts knew best, and he urged a return to the parental guidelines of his own boyhood.

Today the 'wet-nurse to the permissive society' celebrates his 85th birthday. How does Dr Benjamin Spock think his babies are faring as parents themselves? Patrick O'Hanlon reports

It was widely interpreted as Spock recanting. But he was being unfair to himself. He had never suggested that children be allowed to run riot. "On the other hand, I don't think the answer is to become severe. I disbelieve in physical punishment. Children are reasonable people who don't need smacks on the behind; they don't need to be humiliated."

Spock was a timid and lanky child, and the butt of much teasing. At Yale, however, he was a social success, and his 6ft 4in frame helped send him to the 1924 Olympics as one of the best oarsmen that Yale ever produced. It was a summer working with physically handicapped children which finally turned him to medicine, and he was among the first doctors to train in both paediatrics and psychiatry, later undergoing psychoanalysis as part of his training.

He started a practice in 1933, filling his Manhattan office with children's games, and wearing a lounge suit instead of a white coat which, he felt, might frighten a child. *Baby and Child Care* was the fruit of these years. In 1943 he began dictating his ideas to his wife Jane, who sat patiently at a battered typewriter, waiting for the words to come — a slow process, but it gave the book a conversational tone.

He finished it after a term as a naval psychiatrist. Published in 1946, it was an instant bestseller. The timing was perfect. Thousands of "helpless" young wartime mothers, far from home, turned to Spock's "substitute for granny" and its countless Spockisms: "Your baby isn't a schemer. [He] is a reasonable, friendly human being. If you treat him nicely, he won't take



'I was proud of the youths who opposed the war in Vietnam — they were my babies' Benjamin Spock

advantage of you." It was not Spock who pioneered this new attitude, but he explained it better than anyone else. "Relax — love and enjoy them," mom and dad were advised, and at first they did.

But Spock believes that much misunderstanding subsequently attached itself to the book and to himself. "I have the reputation of being a permissivist, which most people think means letting children do what they want. That was never my view."

It was not until he took up his stand against Vietnam that the stereotype of the apostle of permissiveness gained currency. Spiro Agnew, then Vice-President, was among the most vocal of his critics and accused him of being

personally responsible for a generation of spineless, pacifist youngsters. The conservative camp virtually en masse branded him "the man who wet-nursed the permissive society."

"But I was not accused of advocating permissiveness until 22 years after the book came out, not until two weeks after I was indicted for my involvement in the Vietnam war," says Spock. "The accusation was enthusiastically taken up by editorial writers and columnists, and I was made a scapegoat."

In 1968, in Boston, he was arrested on a charge of helping young men to evade the draft and sentenced to two years in jail (but successfully appealed). He also helped to form the People's Party, for which he ran as president, in 1972. On top of everything, sales of *Baby and Child Care*, which had been revised to include a spirit of "service to fellow men", plummeted. His idealism, however, is undiminished. "I was proud of the youths who opposed the war in Vietnam because they were my babies. They were intelligent, idealistic and independent-minded."

He has found that some "Spock babies" who are now parents themselves still feel insecure. Just as Spock reassured his own children differently from his mother, so it has been with his children when they became parents. They have told him that he was a strict, no-nonsense father. "It was clear by the time my son had his children that he and his wife thought what I did to him was cruel and old-fashioned. I say parents should be sure, and I

still encourage them to have confidence in themselves."

The modern family is, he feels, subject to unprecedented strains. "The rate of divorce in the United States, for instance, has doubled in the last 15 years which means there are a lot more stepfamilies. But I'm not one of those who think that the family is done for. Most children are brought up in some semblance of a family, preparing themselves to be like their parents. That is why they spend so much time at what they call playing house." Spock himself is now a stepfather following the dissolution, after 48 years, of his first marriage to Jane Cheney, in 1975. There were two sons of that union, and he acquired a stepdaughter by his second, to Mary Morgan (some 35 years his junior), in the following year.

Mothers, he insists, have just as much right to a career as fathers. "It merely emphasizes that men have as much responsibility as their wives in who is going to take care of the children." But he is critical of a lack of proper nurseries to ease the lot of working mothers. "In America, a lot of children are getting inferior care, and it's a shame that the richest country in the world is not subsidizing the children of working mothers."

Today, when not answering an enormous correspondence, he lectures on child care when asked, and on politics (although asked for that less often). He will probably celebrate his 85th birthday aloft.

Since its publication, *Baby and Child Care* has sold more than 30 million copies (three-quarters of a million in the first year alone) and has been translated into at least 30 languages, including Japanese and Urdu. It is still selling — "so young modern mothers must still know of me. I thoroughly revise it every 10 years, but the general philosophy of respecting children and asking for respect from them is still the same. That will never change..."

Pennywise, is £50 foolish?

To shop, perchance to purchase — but not by cheque over the limit. Why is spending money such a struggle?

The dialogue is familiar enough. "Do you have any identification?" "Yes, please help yourself, cheque card, credit cards, any of these do?" "Do you have anything with your address and a photograph on it?" "No." "Just one moment, please..."

You are, perhaps, seeking to gain access to the inner sanctum of GCHQ in Cheltenham? Or attempting to get past a conscientious doorman at the Athenaeum Club? You are not. You are merely at the cash till of Safeways, Sainsbury's or Marks and Spencer, trying to get rid of some money. Once again, your bill has exceeded the magic figure of £50.

For the past 11 years the bank cheque guarantee card has earned an indisputable reputation as the Peter Pan of 20th-century shopping aids. Since its limit was increased from £30 to its present figure in 1977, the retail price index has risen by 133 per cent and goods worth that £50 then would now cost £116.50.

When the clearing banks recently announced the forthcoming introduction of a collective logo to enable shop counter staff more readily to identify valid cheque cards at a glance, the Retail Consortium of Oxford Street, London, was duly grateful for small mercies. But its assistant director, Michael Wilsey, could not resist a sideways swipe: "The consortium believes that were the banks to have the freedom to determine their own guarantee limits the consequence would be the general raising of the levels to the advantage of customers and retailers alike."

Now the Midland, National Westminster and Royal Bank of Scotland are the latest high street banks to reveal plans for a direct debit card — along the lines of Barclays' Connect card — to replace the need for a chequebook at shops, garages and similar outlets.

Called Switch, it will be operational from around October this year and will serve as a cheque guarantee and cash dispenser card as well as its main role, enabling holders to pay for goods directly out of their bank balance. Although higher sums can be sanctioned by telephone or electronic connection, the guaranteed limit will still, however, be £50.

With many household supermarket trolley loads now exceeding that limit, and several furniture department stores, most notably those belonging to the John Lewis Partnership, refusing to accept credit cards, do the banks have any foreseeable plans to recognize inflation and the passing of the years? Apparently not.

Freely admitting that £1 in

1977 is now worth about 43 pence, a National Westminster spokesman nevertheless insisted: "Our research shows that the £50 limit remains adequate for most day-to-day transactions. Although Apacs (the Association of Payment and Clearing Services) continually keeps the limit under review, the major factor to be considered when raising it is the danger of a rapid increase in the level of loss through fraud."

Whether or not the £50 ceiling really is high enough after more than a decade of inflation — and if it was set at the right level 11 years ago, it would take an obtuse mathematician indeed to argue that it is still right today — the escalation of fraud is certainly significant. In 1977 the banks collectively lost £1.8 million from the unauthorized use of lost or stolen cards. In 1978, the first full year after the limit was raised, the figure was £3.8 million and by 1986 it had shot up to £28.7 million.

Such figures might sound conclusively convincing, but they did not deter the Abbey National Building Society from taking a sly dig at the banks' conservatism the very day after the Midland, National Westminster and Royal Bank of Scotland announced their Switch initiative. Above a picture of the Society's £100 cheque card ran the headline: "Unlike the banks we don't do things by halves."

Chris Watten, the Midland Bank's payments services director, is quick to retaliate. "Fifty pounds is not too unreasonable and there is no policy to increase it. What the Abbey National doesn't point out is that its facility is only available to customers meeting certain criteria. And the societies have not yet experienced — yet being the operative word — the millions of pounds we have lost through fraud."

Any regular shopper at Harrods would, however, have his or her own opinion of the banks' intransigence. At Christmas time in 1977, that first £50 cheque card would neatly have guaranteed a shopping basket of three 2lb boxes of chocolates (£4.55 each), five tins of shortbread biscuits (95p each), a Christian Dior ladies' scarf (£22) and a man's silk tie (£6), with the whole bill coming to £46.40. Today those four prices would read £16.75, £3.50, £80 and £16.50 and that same bill would come to £164.25.

While shoppers and retailers cry out for relief, the cheque guarantee card appears to be stuck in its very own time warp.

William Greaves

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MS MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

Where long-lost love should fear to tread

Life has taught me three things: if you want to end up looking like the back end of a bus, go and have a professional beauty treatment. If you want to be convinced that your days are numbered, get and have a medical check-up. And if you want to have your psyche torn to shreds, make an appointment with a consultant psychiatrist.

Those who deal with the hidden life of the mind tend to go crashing about where more circumspect people fear to tread and Mr Edward Ritchie, a retired consultant psychiatrist who lives in Kent, is no exception. Mr Ritchie, who is 72 and therefore old enough to know better, is not on the trail of his pre-war sweetheart, a former nurse called Ann Clark, and he has placed advertisements in newspapers and given interviews in order to find her and leave her £1,000 in his will.

Trying to turn up old loves is always a risky business, but to make this particular matter worse up until now Mr Ritchie hadn't mentioned a word about his former sweetheart to the woman he has been married to for 47 years.

If I were Mrs Mildred Ritchie I would be pretty peeved at the way a man in his seventies had suddenly broken out into romantic utterances concerning a woman he had last seen in 1939. I would be wondering, as my golden wedding anniversary approached, whether the whole thing had been worthwhile. I think I might find myself moping about, humming old torch songs like "The One I Love Belongs to Somebody Else" and "They're Singing Songs of Love But Not For Me".



I suppose Mr Ritchie's excuse for his hurtful behaviour is that as a consultant psychiatrist, even a retired one, you can't expect him to consider other people's feelings; even so I hope he gets his come-uppance. I would quite enjoy watching a lot of gin-sodden ladies in ratty-looking marmoset stoles come teetering up to his front door.

'You always remember them at their youthful best'

claiming to be Ann Clark and asking if they could have the £1,000 right away as they were going through a bit of a sticky patch.

Or, just to make the hard done by Mrs Ritchie feel better, it would be a neat trick if the genuine Ann Clark were found and she turned out to have changed quite a bit from the fair-haired, oval-faced girl of Mr Ritchie's memory.

Ideally, she should have become a consultant psychiatrist herself so that, without a single quail, she could put paid to Mr Ritchie's irritating fantasies and announce breezily that she hadn't given him so much as a

passing thought in all these years. Better still, she should be dripping with money so that she could tell Mr Ritchie that it's very thoughtful of him but she would rather he left the £1,000 to the cat's home.

The best thing to be said for the girl, or boy, you left behind is that you stand a good chance of always remembering them at their youthful, oval-faced best. There just hasn't been the time to see the almost cheekbones turn puffy, the blue eyes fade to watery grey and the blonde hair turn to a shade that can only be provided by a hairdresser. There will not have been the time to observe a lively nature turn into a vicious temper, an impulsive generosity into silly middle-aged extravagance. To hold a long-lost love up to scrutiny is as reckless as opening the oven door to see whether the soufflé is doing all right.

I speak as one who was tracked down by a childhood sweetheart, and a very chastening experience it was, too. When last sighted, circa 1961, he had possessed a lean star good looks and a lean and hungry body. So, naturally, 20 years on, I was expecting a balding bore with a beer gut and a badly tailored suit. But he still had film star good looks and a lean and hungry body.

But if you think it made me happy to see him still looking so youthful, you're wrong. It just made me cross because I had changed so much and he hadn't. Again, it was he who walked out of my life, but this time I was relieved. It convinced me that the past is a country nobody should be granted an entry visa to.

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TIMES DIARY

CLEMENT FREUD

Terry Waite was last seen on January 24, 1987. Middle East watchers think that he is alive, probably held captive in a southern suburb of Beirut by Shi'ites at the behest of the leader of a minority faction, orchestrated by Iran. One day he will be used as currency in negotiations; the patience of his captors is infinite.

The group who traded two French hostages for about a third of the billion dollars of the Shah's fortune frozen by France showed the value of such an exercise. (For the money paid, the French did get two hostages — but not the two men in respect of whom they had made the deal, which shows the correctness of the Thatcher "no trade with terrorists" stance.)

Waite is likely to be held in some room off a courtyard — to avoid accidental sightings — probably incommunicado with one or more members of a family guarding him, feeding him, and supervising short, silent periods for exercise and ablution.

I asked my Middle East contacts whether there was anything that we, as a nation, could do? They believe that Britain is allowing Lebanese inhumanity to man to be forgotten by the general public: for all their fundamentalist fervour the people of Lebanon want to be considered "civilized", and constant Press reminders of their barbarism would have a substantial effect on local opinion.

"Do you mean if every British newspaper carried a front-page box giving the number of days Terry Waite has been held hostage by Lebanese maniacs?" "Yes," they said. Today it is 456.

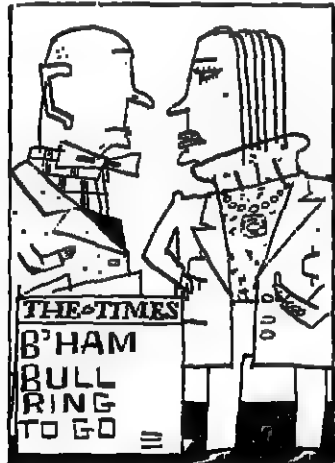
That said the announcer at the end of Dr David Owen's five-minute TV slot on Friday evening, was a party political broadcast "by the SDP". Not "on behalf of..." as they say for other parties. The charismatic politician, filmed addressing a meeting of heavily sedated supporters, spoke of the permanency of the Social Democrats and referred disparagingly to the one-time suggestion of Cyril Smith that they "should have been strangled at birth"; back in 1981 my friends and I did feel that the Rochdale solution was totalitarian, tantamount to genocide, and devoutly to be deplored. I continue to think strangling the SDP is a rotten idea, but the charge would now be the lesser one of man-to-man-slaughter.

Eastern Electricity have written to me: "Dear Customer, At the date of this letter, our records show that the amount due above was still unpaid." They refer to that as "a matter of some urgency", and add that they cannot continue to supply electricity without payment, and unless payment is received within seven days they will be obliged to disconnect my supply. The meter was read on April 8. The threat was dated April 27. Signed K. Tuttle, credit controller. Runs a tight ship, does Tuttle; any tighter and the meter reader will disconnect you on the spot.

Tuttle might look into the internal workings of Cambridge Post Office; I wrote to them two weeks ago asking why mail from my ex-constituency house was being forwarded to "Walpole Street London" ... and then returned to sender marked "insufficiently addressed".

It has taken them two weeks to send a card saying that the case is being investigated. Has a Postmaster General remained in office a postmaster would have come by return expressing regret and a determination to do better. In time they might even have forwarded my mail.

BARRY FANTONI



'And not a squeak from English Heritage'

I went to Newmarket on Saturday for the 2,000 Guineas. The biggest crowd of the season gathered on the best spring day of the year at the most efficiently — if humorously — administered racetrack in the land. The going on the Rowley Mile was perfect and in Doyoun the race had a worthy favourite: brilliantly fast, unbeaten, owned, trained, and ridden by men to whom success is a prerequisite of life — and with only nine runners there were unlikely to be hard luck stories in running the straight course. It was one of the rare occasions when it must have been less fun to stand as a bookmaker than amble around as a punter.

Doyoun was 1-2 in the morning papers — disappointing odds until you consider that 50 per cent profit for the temporary use of your money is a generous return. And the crowd looked at the other eight runners — almost audibly thinking "Doyoun looks a bit too obvious, let's find one to beat him."

Two hours before the race the odds drifted to afford a 66 per cent return, with 30 minutes to go the price was 4-5 (80 per cent on your money), and though nothing had changed — I mean Doyoun on form was still the fastest of the quadrupeds in the field — money was being shovelled on everything else. Common Grounds contracted from 33 to 16-1. Charnier, 20-1 in the morning, down to 10-1. Carverton moved in from 7-1 to 9-2.

The result was as everyone has expected, what 95 per cent of the tipsters had predicted: Doyoun — at remarkably generous odds, brought about by people who had a deep-down feeling that racing was devious, that things could not be so straightforward as to permit the speediest horse to beat the slower ones, and did not want to believe that one plus one equals two. Had Doyoun lost, one would have come to other conclusions.

Mikhail Gorbachev's appeal to church leaders on Friday for help in his fight for social and economic change, in return for legal reforms on freedom of conscience, is unprecedented in recent Soviet history. The last Soviet leader to receive the hierarchy of the Russian Orthodox church in the Kremlin was Stalin in 1943. In return for their help in those war-torn days he promised major concessions, kept his word, and reversed the devastation of the 1930s, when the church had virtually ceased to exist. At Stalin's death there were three times as many churches open in the Soviet Union as there are today.

Now the Eastern Slavs greet their millennium in June in a mood of growing hope that Khrushchev's subsequent onslaught of the 1960s may belong to a past era. Russian church leaders who, over the past 20 years, have insisted that religious persecution existed only in the imagination of Western propaganda now find themselves confronted with some of the hard facts in the Soviet press itself. Even if Friday's meeting was at the suggestion of the hierarchy themselves, as reported, the leaders heard words which must have gone beyond their wildest expectations. They are now faced by the challenge, for which they have little experience, of taking the

initiative for change. They will come under more pressure from their own communities. For two years there have been scattered indications of a possible new deal for the churches. Previously, under Andropov in 1983, the state authorized the return of the Danilov Monastery in Moscow to serve both as an administrative centre and a symbol of endorsement for the millennium celebrations. With Gorbachev in power, a far more serious, limited Bible imports began, and the early release a year ago of about 200 people imprisoned for fighting for religious rights notably improved the atmosphere.

Their number included figures of international renown such as the layman, Alexander Ogorodnikov, and Father Gleb Yakunin, whose rapid reinstatement by the Patriarchate in a matter of weeks after a gap of 22 years showed the world that he was innocent of the "crimes" which not even the church leadership had earlier refuted. At the same time rumours

began to circulate that a new church law was under consideration and that perhaps it would be published to mark the millennium. The tide of glasnost seemed to be flowing for the churches by mid-1987 and everyone eagerly awaited the perestroika (restructuring) needed to restore believers' rights. Then the release of prisoners virtually dried up, with more than 200 remaining in detention, and church leaders began to caution that, while there would be improvements in the church's own administrative canons, the suffocating state laws would remain in place at least until 1989.

The block to reform was reported to be Yegor Ligachev, Gorbachev's number two. It must be significant that Gorbachev's promise last Friday that the new law would reflect the interests of religious organizations followed immediately on the reported curbing of Ligachev's power.

Before this, the most significant call for reform had come

from Konstantin Kharchev, chairman of the government's Council for Religious Affairs, in an article in *Izvestia* on January 27 this year. This important, not previously known for liberal views, made some astonishing revelations. He noted that treatment of believers was no unjust last year his ministry had received no fewer than 3,000 complaints that local authorities had blocked the opening of churches, despite fulfilment of the legal requirements.

He went on glibly, but in- defensibly, to claim that this was due to deviation from Leninist norms. He failed to state — and even in the present climate could not have done — that persecution of the church originated with Lenin.

Here is the crux facing Gorbachev. If he is serious about wanting to build better relations with believers and to encourage them to help them with his reforms, a return to "Lenin's norms" will not do. The Law on Religious Association of 1929 systematically violates the con-

stitutional provision of the separation of church and state, which Lenin indeed proclaimed, but then proceeded to shatter by encouraging such violent actions against the Orthodox Church that it lost its title to every brick and hector it owned (church buildings included). During his lifetime more than 8,000 clergy and nuns were murdered.

Gorbachev's appeal to believers does not sound like window-dressing for the millennium, even though 18 months ago he called for an intensification of anti-religious propaganda. As some commentators, including myself, have stated previously, reason pushes him towards collaboration and, if it is true, as rumour has it, that his mother is a believer, a few cells of his heart might be involved as well. But the obstacles are formidable. One of Solzhenitsyn's greatest crimes in the eyes of the Kremlin was to prove that persecution began with Lenin, and it is hardly conceivable that Gorbachev could both be honest on this issue and retain power.

Opening more churches, even abolishing the requirement that they should be registered by the state, is one thing. Rescinding the ban on the religious education of minors and the establishment of a free Christian press are of a different order. One acid test will be whether the Kremlin will now allow the re-establishment of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, abolished by Stalin's *diktat* in 1946, with the connivance of those very church leaders whose successors Gorbachev received. Jews, too, will claim their rights to new synagogues and in education.

How will Russian Christians react to the call to collaborate with an atheist regime? Leaving aside the complicated question of other nationalities, it would be understandable if first reactions were cautious after decades of ill treatment. But if Gorbachev can quickly start matching the deed to the word, the response could well be generous and forgiving. Is Soviet atheism now the anti-God that failed?

Ultimately, it is the divinely inspired resolve of believers under persecution which has saved the faith in Russia, not some decree by Lenin or Gorbachev. The blood of the martyrs is still the seed of the church.

© Times Newspapers, 1988
The author is founder and director of Keston College for the study of religion in communist states.

Michael Bourdeaux assesses Gorbachev's dramatic offer

Can church freedom stick?

Bernard Levin

Shirkers of the world unite

Here's a sign of the times, and on May Day, too. To hasten the fall in the numbers of the unemployed, the Government has set up many schemes for training people in useful skills. The most recent is the Adult Training Programme, the name of which is self-explanatory; the training will give people — eventually some 600,000 — "employment experience".

This plan, like all the Government's employment initiatives, has been greeted by the trade union movement with suspicion and hostility. *Toddonossaurus Rex* and his like have condemned it and demanded conditions that would make it impossible. True, most of the boneheads who run many of the unions don't want unemployment to stay high and even increase; it is just that they discovered, many years ago, that the earth is flat, and no amount of subsequent demonstration that it is round will shake their belief. Nothing may be done unless it has always been done in the past and unless there are absolute guarantees that it shall always be done in the future; meanwhile, the present, in this case the unemployed, can rot.

The Industrial Society arranged a conference at which the various parties to such a scheme could discuss it; the conference was violently broken up, and the police had to be called to protect the speakers. "This is the start of a campaign," said one of those involved in the violence, "and this is what you will face if it goes ahead" — "it" being the Adult Training Programme.

Such people, unlike T. Rex, do want unemployment to remain high or, better still, rise higher; they long for, and work for, greater misery among the already miserable, in the weird but firmly held belief that when there is enough misery it will lead to revolution, which will provide them with enormous

decks at which they will sit all day writing "No" on a wide variety of application forms. But there was one cry, or slogan, reported from the forcibly dispersed conference that caught my attention: the weak- ers, it seems, were chanting it, and it ran "No work for dole".

As slogans go, it cannot be said to have the quality of "Death before dishonour", "I accuse", or "Gott straf England"; but it has a resonance of its own, and one, moreover, that says something about this country today. The Adult Training Programme is designed as a voluntary scheme; if an unemployed man wishes to be trained and paid instead of drawing unemployment benefit, he may do so, but there are no powers that can compel him to.

This, however, is regarded as the thin end of the Trojan Horse; once the scheme is in operation, it is feared, there will be a suggestion, swiftly turned into law, that an unemployed man offered a place on the programme will lose his unemployment money if he refuses to take up the training-programme offer. Whence the slogan, "No work for dole".

"No work for dole": what thoughts does it provoke? Probably considerable approbation, with much talk of "rights". Here, we must walk warily; we who are in work, and well-paid work too, must not tell the unemployed to eat cake. But it is hard to see why no distinction should be made between those who are unable to do without the social security safety net and those who are unwilling to do without it.

Mrs Thatcher has been talking about the "dependence culture", in terms which suggest that she is determined to break it, by confining help to those who cannot help themselves. The Adult Training Programme will provide a good test of the difference between unable and



unwilling, but that is only a matter of classification: the important question is what do we do when the classification is complete, amid cries of "No work for dole". Norman Fowler, the Employment Secretary, and all the people who will be running the

scheme, are all insisting that there is no intention of making it compulsory. But what I want to know is why not? If that sounds too brutal, and images of cake-eating arise from it, let me explain. The dole, an appropriately gloomy word, was devised, and is still considered,

perhaps, but the choice is hardly a realistic one. A proposal to abolish unemployment benefit at a stroke would not be very popular, and the ensuing uproar would be so loud and so sustained that the Third World War would come as a great relief from it. But that is not to say that there is no point of possible equilibrium between abolishing the dole and leaving it exactly as it is, with nothing but occasional revision upwards.

Will somebody, therefore, tell me why "No work for dole" is a valid and reasonable concept? (Possibly one of the gentlemen who helped to break up the Industrial Society meeting might be induced to hit me on the head with a piano leg on which the answer is inscribed.) We hear a great deal about the debilitating effect of unemployment, quite apart from the financial effect: the loss of energy, the feeling of shame among those who have worked hard all their lives, the gradual decline.

I do not believe that that is propaganda, and with unemployment running at its present level, improvement or no improvement, it cannot be healthy for the country. But if a man who can work, though he has no work to go to, is offered a place on a training scheme with pay, what rule of equity demands that he should continue

to receive unemployment pay if he refuses the offer?

The "dependence culture" is exactly represented by the cry "No work for dole", but not because it demands anything for those who refuse to do anything for it. The real corruption is the attitude behind the cry: the belief that it is the duty of other people to keep in funds those who wish to remain idle, though they need not do so.

I do not know how many they are, nor does it matter; the idea is abroad, and will take some putting down, especially if the mere discussion of such matters is forbidden on pain of violence. This is not an argument about getting something for nothing: we all want something for nothing. It is deeper, and much more pernicious; it turns human beings into insensate creatures who would, if they could, spend their entire lives sponging off others, though they have two hands of their own and are offered an opportunity to use them. Even before this notion took root, its precursor had virtually swept the field: the absurd situation in which an unemployed man would be no better off financially if he worked was always discussed in terms of sympathy for the man. Nobody even pointed out that it is wrong for a man to take other people's money if he can earn his own.

And now, it seems, we have gone further; the very idea of working for the pay-out is rejected and derided, and when Mr Fowler was last heard of on the subject he was still insisting, in a delightfully craven manner, that he had no intention of making the Adult Training Programme compulsory. But St Paul was in no doubt; in a crisp note to the Thessalonians he said: "If any would not work, neither should he eat." What the Thessalonians reply was nobody could understand, because their mouths were full of loaves and fishes, but the general belief is that they were shouting "No work for dole".

Commentary • ROBIN OAKLEY

No 10 closed shop

The recent cluster of Tory rebellions represents a victory for the leaders.

The Government failed to anticipate trouble and was slow to accommodate backbenchers' worries. Some of that may be blamed on the aggressive self-belief of a third-term prime minister who was not much prone to doubts even in the first.

Even when colleagues do voice doubts, Mrs Thatcher is inclined to push ahead regardless. Of those in her Cabinet today all but two — Peter Walker and George Younger — are her own creation. And it is symptomatic that when the Chancellor, Nigel Lawson, was told of excited stories about Mrs Thatcher wagging a finger at him in the division lobby he said he hadn't even noticed. It is such a normal example of her style of conversation with her ministers.

But one of those Cabinet colleagues last week acknowledged the other part of the problem. Too many decisions, he said, are taken in small groups of senior ministers and not thrashed out in full Cabinet, simply because the fear of leaks these days is such that the Prime Minister likes things to be done that way. The result, however, is that mistakes are made and options are closed off too early. Doubts which might have emerged in discussion among a wider group do not surface in time. There is a real need for more ministers to be involved.

The difficulty, he said, is that the Tories owe so much to Mrs Thatcher's drive and political purpose that they don't want to do anything to cramp her style. The odds are, therefore, that the Conservative Party will go on enjoying the fruits of the

Thatcher revolution while occasionally balking at the price. And she is enough of a pragmatist to know when she must cave in. Just imagine the reactions now if there had been no concessions on social security payments and the poll tax.

But all those wise heads now nodding "She'll have to change and do a lot more listening" betray a short political memory. Precisely the same noises were made in 1982 when the Government's majority dropped to only eight on unemployment benefit. We heard them in 1984 when the majority fell to 17 after an explosion of backbench anger at the Government's plans for a substantial increase in top people's salaries. They were made in 1985 when Sir Keith Joseph was forced to drop plans to change better-off parents' work for their children's university tuition. They were made in 1986 when another postbag blitz led to the Government's defeat on its plans for more liberal Sunday trading. Yet here we are again.

Mrs Thatcher would be wise to extend her circle of consultation. A resentment is building up among middle-rank ministers at how excluded they feel, though Downing Street insiders say that the Prime Minister is always willing to give them time — it is just that nobody except Lord Young bothers to ask for it.

Ironically, too, one reason for the present state of troubles is that Mrs Thatcher has done some listening and learned from past experience. It was a mistake, some advisers told her, that the Conservative manifesto for the 1983 general election was so bland that the Government appeared early in the last parliament to be running out of

ideas. So the 1987 manifesto positively burst at the seams with radical initiatives.

It was a mistake, they told her, that controversial legislation in the last two parliaments was attempted towards the end when MPs were jumpy about their seats. So quite deliberately the most controversial measures have been packed together in this first session.

If you sandwich the report stage of the Bill introducing charges for eye tests and dental checks between a give-away Budget for the rich and the introduction of social security changes with more losers than winners, with a regressive poll tax rumbling along in the background, meanwhile, trouble is inevitable.

Mrs Thatcher will look carefully at the results of this week's local elections and the opinion polls between now and the autumn. But the only real change, I suspect, will be a practical one.

The Government's business managers have noted that they have a new kind of rebel on their hands. Cabinet ministers dropped in the last two parliaments tended to display no enthusiasm for sustained opposition and to content themselves with the odd contrary vote on second reading. There is now a new crop of energetic, carded middle rankers, such as Sir Barney Hayhoe and Sir George Young, who constitute a more persistent guerrilla force.

Mrs Thatcher is being advised that in framing future controversial measures she should bolt on a few extras carefully designed for shedding later — just to let the rebels think they have won a concession.

SCIENCE REPORT

Heat transfer

A class of proteins found in the cells of all living things and believed to protect cells against high temperatures has unexpectedly turned out to have an entirely different but even more crucial function.

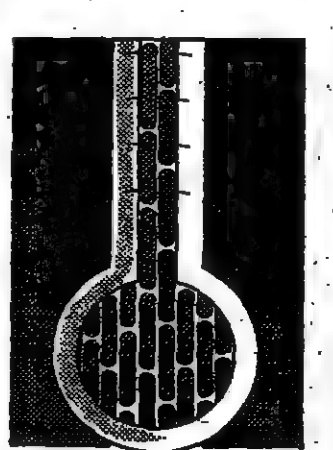
Two reports in the latest *Nature* show that the true role of what are called the heat-shock proteins is to make it possible for other proteins to penetrate the internal membranes within cells. The protection they provide against high temperature is simply a by-product of this chief function.

This development will point the way to a better understanding of the movement of proteins and other materials from one part of a cell to another. It may also lead to better understanding of how complicated processes are assembled.

The heat-shock proteins, so named because they abound in cells exposed to heat, occur in all living things, from bacteria to man. They were first discovered in fruit flies, and it has been supposed that they evolved to enable organisms to adapt to high temperatures.

But Raymond Deshaies and colleagues at the University of California at Berkeley and the University of Wisconsin, and a second group led by William Chiriac at the Rockefeller University in New York, have now provided a fuller definition of their functions.

The interiors of most cells are labyrinths of membranes, which separate from each other the competing chemical reactions necessary for life.



That arrangement requires that proteins should be able to move from one compartment to another, but little has been known of how they cross the internal barriers.

It now seems that the normal function of the heat-shock proteins is to bond to other newly-formed proteins before the latter have a chance to fold spontaneously into globular form.

Proteins are long molecules that, left to themselves, usually fold up into balls, such as oil droplets form in water, in which state they cannot diffuse through the internal membranes. But binding to the heat-shock proteins keeps them streamlined enough to do so.

To demonstrate this routine function, Deshaies and his colleagues prepared genetic variants of a yeast which are unable to make heat-shock

proteins. They found the heat-shock proteins so necessary to cell housekeeping that the mutant strains could not survive even at ordinary temperatures.

Further modification of the yeast by genetic engineering allowed the team to switch on and off the production of heat-shock proteins by adding or withholding a special ingredient to the yeast's nutrient supply. With the heat-shock proteins switched on, the yeast lived normally. But when the heat-shock proteins were switched off, other proteins quickly accumulated inside the cell.

The second group of researchers took a different tack, adding components extracted from yeast cells to membranes in a test tube to which cause proteins to traverse the membranes. Two common heat-shock proteins proved to be effective.

These normal functions of heat-shock proteins also explain their role in emergencies. In a cell under heat stress, proteins first unfold and then stick to one another (which is why a boiled egg is solid). But heat-shock proteins, clinging to the unfolded proteins, prevent coagulation.

Heat-shock proteins may also keep apart the components of protein complexes until it is time for them to form. Many important proteins, such as immune antibodies, are formed piece-by-piece from smaller proteins.

CAROL EZZELL

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COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 30: The Princess Royal this morning attended the Annual General Meeting of the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs (Chairman, Mr. M. Stanbury) at the Bournemouth International Conference Centre, Bournemouth.

Her Royal Highness was received on arrival by Major General Henry Bond (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Dorset).

The Princess Royal this afternoon at Bournemouth Town Hall launched the 'Freedom 1' and 'Freedom 2', the first of a fleet of boats specially equipped for use by those who are disabled. The boats were purchased with funds from the Mayor of Bournemouth's Charity (Councillor Mrs. Siberry).

Her Royal Highness travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

CLARENCE HOUSE
April 30: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother today visited Birmingham, and in the morning opened the new developments at Birmingham Botanical Gardens and Glasshouses.

In the afternoon Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was present at a reunion of the British Women's Land Army Society at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham.

Her Majesty travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

The Lady Grimthorpe and Sir Martin Gilliat were in attendance.

The President of the Republic of Ireland celebrates his birthday today.

Today's royal engagement

The Duchess of York, Patron of the Motor Neurone Disease Association and President of the Anastasia Trust for the Deaf, accompanied by the Duke of York, will attend a charity performance of *Back with a Vengeance* at the Strand Theatre at 7.00 in aid of the association and the trust.

Anniversaries

Births: Alessandro Scarlatti, composer, Palermo, 1660; Catherine the Great, Empress of Russia 1762-96, Stettin, Prussia (Szczecin, Poland) 1729; Robert Hall, Baptist minister, Arnsby, Leics, 1764; Jerome K. Jerome, novelist and dramatist, Wales, 1859; Theodor Herzl, Zionist, Budapest, 1860; Bing Crosby, Washington, 1904.

Deaths: Leonardo da Vinci, Cloux (Clos-Lucé), France, 1519; William Beckford, writer and eccentric, Bath, 1844; Alfred de Musset, poet, Paris, 1857; Frederick Archer, pioneer of photography, London, 1857; Giacomo Meyerbeer, composer, Paris, 1864; Joseph McCarthy, anti-communist politician, Bethesda, Maryland, 1957; Lady Astor, first woman to take her seat as an MP, Grimsthorpe Castle, Lincs, 1964; J Edgar Hoover, Director of the FBI 1924-72, Washington, 1972.

Berlin surrendered to Russian troops, 1945.

Middle Temple

Mr A.K. Lewis, QC, Mr G.C. Ryan, QC, and Miss Sheila M.C. Cameron, QC, have been elected Masters of the Bench of the Inner Temple.

Nature Notes

Nightingales are back: some of them sing from the depths of the brambles in dark woods, while others settle on grassy heaths, as in Suffolk, where they sing from the top of the yellow bushes. They sing both day and night.

The later summer visitors are now arriving: they include wood warblers among the flowers opening on every branch. The pink and white blossom of the crab-apples is already falling in the rain. The bell-shaped flowers of saucer's head fritillaries are in the wind in wet meadows and sometimes on damp lawns. Some flowers are deep purple with flickering lighter patches, some are pale purple, some are almost pure white.

DJM

Dangers for a society that has lost its memory

By Clifford Longley

A university lecturer in philosophy set his students an essay subject: 'It is better that one man should die for the sake of the people - discuss.'

According to the Bishop of Peterborough, the Rt Rev William Westwood, who told this story in a sermon in St Paul's recently, the lecturer was shocked to discover that not one of his class knew the origin of the quotation or had any clue to what it referred to.

A society that has lost its memory has grown so feeble that a saying of Professor Henry Chadwick in the General Synod of the Church of England recently, 'Christianity is part of the collective memory of English society, and a whole generation has grown up which appears to have no knowledge of it. Such alarming considerations as these are being cited by supporters of an amendment proposed by Baroness Cox to the Education Reform Bill, due for debate in the House of Lords later this week.

The amendment would specify that religious education, which is given a special status in the Bill, should in future be 'predominantly Christian.' The Government has so far opposed the amendment, largely on the grounds that it is too vague to be appropriate to a statute, but this is having the unintended but fortunate effect of forcing certain issues of general principle into the open, not least these:

The Bishop of London, who leads for education in the Lords on behalf of the Church of England, and the

Roman Catholic bishops, who have briefed some Catholic peers to speak for them in the debate, have not so far favoured the amendment, though they are sympathetic to its intention.

Behind Baroness Cox there is nevertheless a substantial lobby, and her arguments may yet persuade her opponents. There are signs already that opinion in the Church of England is swinging behind her.

What is at stake is more than a general and platitudinous phrase in a Bill, for the amendment is actually intended to call in question the whole philosophy currently behind religious education in state schools. According to the conventional wisdom in this branch of education, the study of religion is, at root, being like sociology or anthropology: religion is an interesting cultural phenomenon it would be useful to know about. And the emphasis on 'comparative religion' has grown enormously in the last 20 years, explicitly for the reason that Britain has become a multi-faith society, and implicitly no doubt because this gives it a claim to be a respectable academic discipline which can be taught dispassionately without suspicion of 'indoctrination.'

Critics of this approach maintain that it is itself a very powerful though subtle form of indoctrination in its own right, and that far from being dispassionate it has become a clever tool for discrediting religion in general and Christianity in particular. They complain that religious education has been turned into nothing much more than a survey of religious

myths and customs, with a bias against real insight and therefore a bias against any religion as possibly true.

There is an inevitable tendency for standard textbooks to treat such topics as Easter eggs and the Crucifixion, ritual cannibalism and Holy Communion, Father Christmas and the birth of Jesus, as if they were all on the same level, and equally implausible. In terms of the current philosophy of religious education they probably have no other choice, for there is nothing in that philosophy which allows for discrimination between better and worse. But one common textbook anecdote by Baroness Cox in her researches combines this even-handed tone with a slight bias towards the view that behind the appearance of professional detachment may lie deep contempt and hostility.

Even a serious and respectful comparison of how different religions handle common themes such as death must inevitably discourage any effort to understand what it feels like to believe in any one of them.

Religions lose their inner coherence when broken into bits for the sake of comparison, and most religions have elements which only seem alien to those of that faith when taken out of context. It is the least kindly light in which to view these mathematics would not be treated that way.

Meanwhile there is evidence that Muslims, for instance, are not im-

pressed by having their own most sacred beliefs paraded in the classroom for the benefit of a sceptical audience of 14-year-olds in the name of communal harmony in a multi-faith society. For some Muslim parents prefer to send their children to those few remaining schools where Christianity is taken seriously, believing a non-religious culture is more of a threat to faith than a different religious culture. There is even said to be one imam of a mosque in Britain who leads his Friday congregation in prayers that the British would start to honour the name of Jesus again.

What RE in schools does not provide (except in the one in ten schools which are Roman Catholic) is any systematic exposure of the mass of children to the Bible, church history, Christian morality, worship, or theology. They are in fact more likely to run into Christianity in this way in their English or history lessons and, as the case of the Bishop of Peterborough's philosophy lecturer, it is becoming a common complaint in sixth forms and universities that students are quite ignorant of the meaning of the religious allusions in, say, Milton or Shakespeare. Similarly the Home Secretary, Mr Douglas Hurd, referred earlier this year to some young criminals for whom it was as if the Gospels or the Ten Commandments had never been written, for all they knew of them. But what he did not say was why.

It was said by the Chief Priest Caiaphas after the arrest of Jesus (John 18 v14)

'Reject' up for sale - at more than £100,000

By Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

A masterpiece in stained glass commissioned by the Irish Free State in 1926 and then rejected by them on grounds of decency, has been unearthed by the Fine Art Society.

It is the highlight of a tribute exhibition to the forgotten artist Harry Clarke in London from tomorrow. The saga surrounding the work was to hasten the early death of the artist at the age of 42 and makes poignant reading.

"I regard it as one of the masterpieces of 20th century stained glass," said Peyton Skipwith of the society, who had no idea of its existence until he started researching for the show. Standing a full six feet by three, its price tag is "in excess of £100,000".

Harry Clarke (1889 to 1931) was an innovative stained glass maker based in Dublin. He was popular with collectors when art nouveau and symbolism was in vogue, and carried out many commissions for churches in England, Ireland and overseas.

His technique permitted the placing of several different colours of glass within one section, instead of separating each with leading, as well as



subtle colouring effects akin to etching. According to a contemporary, Professor Patrick Abercrombie, the effect succeeded in "beating the success of Wm Morris and Burne Jones follow".

In 1926, the government

commissioned him to make a window for presentation to the International Labour Building in Geneva. He was given free rein as to his subject, and chose modern Irish literature. The resultant work is a medley

of incidents from Shaw, Yeats, Synge and Joyce, the figures predominantly white and red against a deep blue ground. But it was the seductively naked figures and gossamer veils illustrating Liam O'Flaherty's Mr Gilfoyle which

proved too much for the authorities.

"The inclusion of scenes from certain authors as representative of Irish literature and culture would give offence to many of our people," they said. According to a civil servant many years later: "Nakedness was something they were prepared to accept as an artistic achievement, but never nakedness which suggested a nation famed as a Catholic stronghold was to be represented as a bizarre almost viciously evil people steeped in sex and drunkenness and, yes, sin."

Already suffering from tuberculosis, Harry Clarke died shortly afterwards, partly due to the strain. The government then paid his widow in full, and removed the window. As his son Michael says: "Officials were relieved they had acquired and sequestered an object of potential embarrassment."

On recovering from her grief, his widow then spent years trying to buy the work back. Eventually she succeeded in 1933, and kept it with her until her death in 1961. It was transferred to the Dublin municipal gallery in 1963 for a temporary showing, but has hardly been seen since. It has now been consigned for sale by the Clarke's two sons.

Forthcoming marriages

Birthdays today

Air Chief Marshal Sir John Bannister, 70; Sir Hugh Crotty, diplomat, 64; Rear-Admiral Sir John Fleming, 84; Mr Alastair Forbes, writer, 70; Mr Peter Foster, Surveyor of the Fabric, Westminster Abbey, 69; Sir Campbell Fraser, chairman, Scottish Television, 65; Mr Henry Hall, Hamilton, leader, 90; Sir James Hamilton, aviation expert, 65; Professor R.W.K. Honeycombe, metallurgist, 67; Mr Clive Jenkins, trades unionist, 62; the Duke of Montrose, 81; Mr John Neville, actor, 63; Air Marshal Sir Ian Pledger, 62; Mr Satyaji Ray, film producer and director, 67; Sir Ronald Sinclair, former president, the Appeal Court of the Bahamas and Bermuda, 85; Dame Nancy Sange, former director, WRAF, 82; Dr Benjamin Spock, child care expert, 85; Sir Frederick A. Warner, diplomat, 70; Mr Jimmy White, snooker player, 26; Lord Justice Woolf, 55.

Mr A.G. Grieve and Miss F.R. Cranfield. The engagement is announced between Philip, son of Mr and Mrs Martin Gadsby, of Hanger Down House, Arundel, and Robin, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Millington, of Gridley, California.

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OBITUARY

JAMES MCCRACKEN

Steelworker who became Otello

James McCracken, the American tenor who won worldwide fame in the 1960s for his vivid portrayal of the title role in Verdi's *Otello*, died in New York on April 29, aged 61.

He had started life as a steelworker. When he died he was one of the Metropolitan Opera's leading tenors.

In the opera based on the Shakespearean tragedy, McCracken united a dark, timorous, emotionally tense voice with a highly convincing actor's presence in a long and taxing part. The voice was never lovely, but possessed of a certain "strangled" quality which made it very exciting.

He was a strong man physically and on one memorable occasion when he appeared at Covent Garden at short notice, with Tito Gobbi playing Iago, he inadvertently threw the Italian to the ground during a scene in which he was to sing with him and the two then went on to sing with real dramatic intensity.

Otello remained his most celebrated role, for McCracken refused to go on and take up the range of Wagnerian tenor parts his gifts suggested he would have been well fitted for and which many admirers urged upon him.

Born in Gary, Indiana, the son of a fireman, McCracken had his voice's potential first spotted while he was serving in the United States Navy, when a music-loving officer heard him singing in a navy choir.

While studying at Columbia University in New York, he

earned a living in Broadway shows and singing in the choruses at the Roxy Theatre.

He made his operatic debut as Rodolfo in Puccini's *La Bohème* at the Central City Opera, Colorado, in 1952. But the dramatic turning point in his career came seven years later when he first took on Otello's role in Washington, in a performance acclaimed by the critics. He went on to appear successfully at the Zurich Opera and the Vienna Staatsoper in 1960. His first appearance at Covent Garden came in 1964.

McCracken went on sometimes to replace a star indisposed and with his audiences hardly knowing him, but they, and the local critics, always enjoyed his performance enthusiastically.

In 1963 McCracken became the first American native ever to sing Otello at the Metropolitan. Among his other leading roles were Florestan in *Fidelio* and Don Jose in *Carmen*.

McCracken was married to Sandra Warfield, the mezzo soprano, and another of his powerful performances was playing opposite her in *Samson and Delilah*.

In 1957 he and his wife came to Europe in order to enable him to get more operatic experience. In Bonn he sang *Radames* in *Aida*.

The couple later wrote a book about their experiences, entitled *A Star in the Family* (1971).

MAJ-GEN W.A.F.L. FOX-PITT

Major-General "Billy" Fox-Pitt, CVO, DSO, MC, who died on April 26 at the age of 92, was the last of the original Welsh Guards officers.

From the regiment's inception in 1915 he probably had more to do with shaping it and creating its standards than anybody else. The Welsh Guards were the central theme of his life.

During the Second World War he commanded the Guards Brigade serving with the British Expeditionary Force in France in 1940. On the formation of the Guards Armoured Division he took command of 5th Guards Armoured Brigade in 1941. He was largely responsible for the success with which British Guardsmen converted to tanks.

The son of Lt-Col. W.A. Fox-Pitt, Grenadier Guards, and born and brought up in Anglesey, William Augustus Fitzgerald Lane Fox-Pitt was educated at Charterhouse and then at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, in August 1914, going to France in October.

After he transferred to the Welsh Guards he was wounded at the Hohenzollern Redoubt. He received the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry while commanding a company at Ginchy on the Somme in 1916. He was again wounded in 1918.

Between 1934 and 1939 he commanded the 1st Bn the Welsh Guards, and then the regiment.

In 1940, after taking command of 20th Guards Brigade, he went to France with his two Guards battalions at short notice to defend Boulogne. They held out against strong German armoured attacks, supported by artillery, for two days before being withdrawn. He was awarded the DSO for his leadership and personal example.

Fox-Pitt was promoted Major-General Commanding East Kent District in 1943, and retired from the Army in 1947. From 1945 to 1947 he was an ADC to the King.

From 1947 to 1966 he was a member of HM Bodyguard of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms, becoming the Standard Bearer from 1961 to 1963.

In retirement in Dorset he became chairman of the Blackmoor Vale and hunted with them until he was 79. He was a keen shot and fisherman, and an enthusiastic golfer. In 1957 he became a Deputy Lieutenant for Dorset.

He is survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter.

PAOLO STOPPA

Paolo Stoppa, the leading Italian character actor, whose memorable face appeared in countless of his country's postwar films, has died in Rome at the age of 61.

Stoppa won international acclaim in 1951 for his portrayal of the villain, Ratti, in *Vittorio de Sica's Miracle in Milan*, a satirical fantasy about the plight of Italy's urban poor.

In the 1960s he became even better known when he appeared in two major Luciano Visconti films, *Rocco and His Brothers* and *The Leopard*, playing in the latter opposite Burt Lancaster in the Lampedusa novel.

LORD RAMSEY OF CANTERBURY

The Very Rev Edward Carpenter, KCPVO, writes:

Your obituary (April 25) of Michael Ramsey rightly calls attention to his exceptional gifts, his intellectuality, his holiness and compassionate concern for the underprivileged, not least those discriminated against on account of their race or the colour of their skin. Nor would any obituary be objective or fair unless it paid tribute to his deep concern for Christian unity.

The reference to visits to Moscow and "followed by the even more historic - because without precedent since the Reformation - visit he paid to Pope Paul VI in the Vatican in March 1966" is inaccurate. Some six years previously Archbishop Fisher made, perhaps, an even more historic visit to the Pope.

PROF. ERIC HAVELOCK

Mr Christopher Gill writes: Your obituary (April 13) of Professor Eric Havelock correctly recorded his important re-appraisal of ancient Greek political theory. In the last thirty years he had also made a fundamental contribution to the study of the cultural implications of the transition from orality to literacy, as exemplified in *Ancient Greece*. His works on this subject, including *Preface to Plato* (1963), earned him an international reputation in the developing field of communication studies as well as in the classical world.

Reunion

More than seventy members of the British Council-sponsored Young European Lawyers' course, their partners, mentors and guests, attended a reunion in Edinburgh, on April 29 and 30. The guests included: the Secretary of State for Scotland and Mrs Rifkind, the Principal of Edinburgh University and Lady Smith, the Lord President and Lady Emslie, The Marquess of Bute, Mr and Mrs N. Bisset and Mr G. Robertson, MP (British Council), the Dean of the Faculty of Advocates and Mrs Hope, Mr and Mrs A.C. Clark and Mrs J.H. Webster (Law Society of Scotland), and the Dean of the Faculty of Law, Lord and Lady Cameron welcomed those attending the dinner on behalf of the organisers, Mr J.W.G. Blackie, Mr M.G. Clarke, Professor D.A.O. Edwards, QC, Mr K.G.C. Reid and Mr D.B. Walters.

Memorial services

Sir Joseph Hutchinson A service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir Joseph Hutchinson was held on Saturday in St John's College Chapel, Cambridge. The Rev A.A. Macintosh, Dean of St John's College, officiated. Sir Harry Hinsley, Master, read the lesson. Mr D. Morgan, read from the works of Sir Joseph and Dr R. Garling, president, read from *A Universal Mission* by George Fox.

Mr John D. Mabbott A memorial service for Mr John D. Mabbott was held on Saturday at the University Church of St Mary the Virgin, Oxford. The Rev T.J. Goringham officiated. Mr G.B. Richardson read from *Essays on Truth and Reality* by S.F. Bradley and Professor D.A. Russell gave an address. The President of St John's College, Oxford, and Mrs Hayes, the Fellows and Honorary Fellows were among those present.

Mr J.E.M. Cunn and Miss L. Vigne The marriage took place on Saturday at All Saints, Colleshill, Buckinghamshire, of Dr Charles Levinson and Miss Francine Heilmann. The Rev Anthony Fiddis officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Philippa Heilmann, Elizabeth Freeman, Lady Rose Alexander, Camilla Bowring, Charlie Heilmann, Nicholas Levinson and Harry Gidney-Paton. Mr Alexander Goldsmith was best man.

The reception was held at Hertfordshire House, Colleshill, and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

Mr J.E.M. Cunn and Miss L. Vigne The marriage took place on Saturday at All Saints, Colleshill, Buckinghamshire, of Dr Charles Levinson and Miss Francine Heilmann. The

INFORMATION SERVICE

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Saturday section by a preview of the week ahead. Items for inclusion should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

BOOKING KEY

★ Seats available
★ Returns only
(D) Access for disabled

THEATRE

LONDON

★ **BLOODY POETRY:** Nigel Terry plays Byron and Mark Rylance is Shelley in a new production of the play by C. J. C. Smith. Royal Court Theatre, Sloane Square, London SW3 (01-730 1745). Tue. 8.15pm, Wed. 8.15pm, Fri. 8.15pm, Sat. 8.15pm, Sun. 8.15pm, Mon. 8.15pm.

★ **THE COMMON PURSUIT:** Simon Gray play traces the fortunes of an underdog character, splendid cast led by Rik Mayall, John Sessions, Stephen Fry, John Gorton. Phoenix Cross Road, WC2 (01-836 2294). Tue. 8.15pm, Wed. 8.15pm, Fri. 8.15pm, Sat. 8.15pm, Sun. 8.15pm, Mon. 8.15pm.

★ **CYMBELINE:** Harriet Walter in a radiant image in P. B. Marlowe's fine Stratford production. The Swan, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire (01-538 8891). Tue. 7.30-11pm, Wed. 7.30-11pm, Thu. 7.30-11pm, Fri. 7.30-11pm, Sat. 7.30-11pm, Sun. 7.30-11pm.

★ **A FAMILY AFFAIR:** Splendid Cheek by Jowl in town again with C. J. C. Smith's production of the play by C. J. C. Smith. Royal Court Theatre, Sloane Square, London SW3 (01-730 1745). Tue. 8.15pm, Wed. 8.15pm, Fri. 8.15pm, Sat. 8.15pm, Sun. 8.15pm, Mon. 8.15pm.

★ **ONE WAY PENDULUM:** Jonathan Miller's production of N. F. Simpson's absurdist comedy: strong cast and taut choreography of a machine-gun-wielding "Hallelujah" band. Old Vic Theatre, Waterloo Road SE1 (01-836 7616). Tue. 8.15pm, Wed. 8.15pm, Fri. 8.15pm, Sat. 8.15pm, Sun. 8.15pm, Mon. 8.15pm.

★ **THE WINTER'S TALE:** Tim Pigott-Smith and Eileen Atkins in Peter Hall's production. National Theatre (Cottesloe), South Bank SE1 (01-828 2252). Tue. 8.15pm, Wed. 8.15pm, Fri. 8.15pm, Sat. 8.15pm, Sun. 8.15pm, Mon. 8.15pm.

★ **YOU NEVER CAN TELL:** Toby Robertson's story of a man who is a doctor, a lawyer, a politician, a writer, a husband, a father, a son, a brother, a friend, a lover, a man. Royal Court Theatre, Sloane Square, London SW3 (01-730 1745). Tue. 8.15pm, Wed. 8.15pm, Fri. 8.15pm, Sat. 8.15pm, Sun. 8.15pm, Mon. 8.15pm.

★ **ZIEGFELD:** Spectacular musical based on the life of the man who made the famous Ziegfeld Follies and created a bomb. With Len Cariou, Geoffrey Hurstons and Louise Gold. London Palladium, 8 Argyll Street, W1 (01-457 7073). Tue. 8.15pm, Wed. 8.15pm, Fri. 8.15pm, Sat. 8.15pm, Sun. 8.15pm, Mon. 8.15pm.

★ **LONG RUNNERS:** A new musical by David Hare and C. J. C. Smith. Royal Court Theatre, Sloane Square, London SW3 (01-730 1745). Tue. 8.15pm, Wed. 8.15pm, Fri. 8.15pm, Sat. 8.15pm, Sun. 8.15pm, Mon. 8.15pm.

★ **THE UNREARABLE LIGHTNESS OF BEING:** Philip Kaufman's massive and majestic adaptation of Milan Kundera's novel, a story of love and

political consciousness set against the Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia. With Daniel Day-Lewis, Juliette Binoche, Lena Olin (172 min). Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2886). Progs 1.25, 5.00, 8.15.

★ **DEATH WISH IV - THE CRACKDOWN:** Charles Bronson in a role of a man who is a doctor, a lawyer, a politician, a writer, a husband, a father, a son, a brother, a friend, a lover, a man. Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2886). Progs 1.25, 5.00, 8.15.

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★ **OUT OF TOWN**

★ **WATFORD:** The Prices Two brothers, policeman and doctor, risk over the family estate in Miller's 1960s drama. Watford Theatre, Watford (01-848 2252). Tue. 8.15pm, Wed. 8.15pm, Fri. 8.15pm, Sat. 8.15pm, Sun. 8.15pm, Mon. 8.15pm.

★ **FILMS**

★ **Also on national release**

★ **Advance booking possible**

★ **BABETTE'S FEAST:** (Up One of Karen Blixen's lighter tales, immaculately translated to the screen by a fellow Dane, Gabriel Axel. With Stéphane Audran as a famous Danish chef who tests her skills on an austere religious community (105 min). Progs 2.00, 5.00, 8.15.

★ **BROADCAST NEWS (18):** Slick drama about network TV journalism from James L. Brooks (Terms of Endearment). With Hurt, Albert Brooks, Holly Hunter as the trio caught in a jumble of professional and romantic problems (132 min). Progs 2.00, 5.00, 8.15.

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A 19th-century artist's view of the Lord Mayor's river procession arriving at Westminster

Stately progression into the past

The Lord Mayor of London, Sir Greville Spratt, follows a tradition centuries old this afternoon when he takes his gold state barge up the Thames to lead a spectacular river pageant from Tower Bridge to Westminster and back. The first known Lord Mayor to take to the water in this way was Sir John Norman who, in 1453, "rode in his barge to Westminster with silver oars at his own cost". Today's pageant - the recreation of one devised in 1613 by the dramatist Thomas Middleton for his namesake, Lord Mayor Sir Thomas Middleton, has been organized by the City of London Corporation, as a trailer to next year's 800th anniversary celebrations and as a charity event in aid of the Telethon Appeal. The flotilla of massive floats bearing banners, costumed players and musicians uses many of the 1613 tableaux - re-

enacting the classic battle between light and darkness. Entertainment will be held along the river, most from noon onwards, at the Tower of London, Swan Lane, Paul's Walk, Cleopatra's Needle and the London Dungeon, Southbank, Riverside and the Globe Theatre, the Anchor Inn, St Mary Over Wharf, the London Dungeon, Hay's Galleria and HMS Belfast. The state barge, floats and vessels will be moored at Tower Pier from noon and the Lord Mayor and procession board at 1pm. Tower Bridge opens in salute at 1.40pm and the pageant continues up river to Festival Pier for disembarkation at 2.45pm. The Lord Mayor then presents a cheque to Thames Television, tours the Jacobean Fair and boards at 4pm for the journey down river to arrive at Tower Pier at 4.45pm. (Information 01-606 3636/22-1234.) *Judy Freshing*

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★ **BOYD & EVANS:** Recent super-realist paintings. Angela Flowers Gallery, 11 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (01-837 3050). Mon-Fri 10.30am-5pm, Sat 10.30am-12.30pm, free, until May 28.

★ **BRICE MARDELL:** Recent paintings and drawings by the American minimalist and former assistant to Robert Rauschenberg. Anthony O'Reilly Gallery, 9 & 25 Dering Street, London W1 (01-499 4100). Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-1pm, free, until May 28.

★ **ESSENTIAL BLACK ART:** Works done since 1970 by black British artists, selected by Rashied Arman. Hockney Art Gallery, Princess Alexandra Walk, Huddersfield (01454 513005). Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-4pm, free, until May 28.

★ **TURNER'S ILLUSTRATIONS:** Small watercolours made to illustrate an 1837 edition of *The Poetical Works of Thomas Campbell*. National Gallery of Scotland, The Mound, Edinburgh (01-666 8921). Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 2pm-5pm, free, until May 31.

★ **BOOKINGS**

FIRST CHANCE

★ **ROYAL OPERA:** Phone/personal booking opens today for new production of *Anna Bolina*, Donizetti opera based on Henry VIII's marriages, with Joan Sutherland in the role; also *Peter Grimes*, Macbeth and *Lohengrin*, with casts including Jon Vickers, Josephine Barrow, Elizabeth Burtch and Plácido Domingo. June-July. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1068/1811).

★ **ROYAL BALLET:** Phone/personal booking opens today for June-July with performances of *Serenade*, *Bugatti*, *The Concert and Overture*. Royal Opera House, as above.

★ **KROV BALLET:** Phone/personal booking opens today for *La Corrairie*. Aug 8-15. Royal Opera House, as above.

★ **AUSTRALIAN BALLET:** Phone/personal booking from today for two-week season in bicentennial Australia to the World programme, with royal gala performance of the London premiere of *Maria Stieglitz's The Sleeping Beauty*. London premiere of *Beyond Twelve*, *Sally*, *Sonata for Cello*, and *Clara Teller's Ophelia* performances of *Forgotten Land*, *Suite en blanc*, and *Maurice Béjart's Gate of Paradise*, and *Sirynx* and *Company* in work by Australian choreographer Graham Murphy. July 28-Aug 6. Royal Opera House, as above.

★ **LAST CHANCE**

★ **SCULPTURED MASKS BY VALIDA DRAGOVIC:** Rhythmic works based on Shakespearean characters, images and thoughts, as part of Shakespearean birthday month. Ends Wed. Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-838 4141).

★ **NANK:** Final week of Zola play by Georges Bernanos, in adaptation by Owen Wynne; music by Anthony Ingle. West End Theatre, Pudding Lane, London EC4 (01-238 5688).

★ **WALKER BRITAIN:** Sponsored charity walk in aid of "Pro Dogs" at various venues throughout the country, most starting at 11am. For details contact: 01-203 8888.

★ **WALKS**

★ **LONDON'S GHOSTS, ALLEYS AND COVERTS:** A series of walks. 2.30pm, £2.50 (also May 21).

★ **POLITICAL LONDON:** Meet Westminster tube, 11.30am, £3 (also next Mon).

★ **HAUNTED LONDON:** Meet Temple tube, 7pm, £3 (also next Mon).

★ **TUDOR LONDON - SHAKESPEARE'S CITY:** Meet Museum of London, 2.30pm, £3 (also May 15).

★ **BOND WINNERS**

★ **Premium Bond Prize draw winners:** £100,000, 20V2123456789 (the winner lives in Somerset); £25,000, 1898 46808 (Northampton); £25,000, 2AP 355555 (Birmingham).

★ **THEATRE**

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★ **OUTINGS**

TODAY

★ **STILTON CHEESE ROLLING:** Traditional rolling of "wooden" cheese: May Queen and procession of local clubs, schools, societies, etc. Stilton, near Peterborough, 10.30am-3pm, free.

★ **TATTON PARK MAY FAIR:** Maypole dancing, children's races, side stalls, crafts, rides. Tatton Park, Knutsford, Cheshire (0565 54822). 11.30am-5pm, £1 per car.

★ **MAY CELEBRATIONS AT COUGHTON COURT:** Performances by Warwick prep school includes maypole dancing, crowning the May Queen and other festive in the 16th-century courtyard (of National Trust property). Coughton Court, Alcester, Warwickshire (01827 62435). 2.30-5pm. Small admission charge.

★ **FOLK AT THE BARBICAN:** English songs and dances on the Terrace Foyer, mummings, plays and dances on the Lakeside Terrace. Scottish music and canny in Prompt Corner, dance workshops in the Great Rooms and craft demonstrations - lacemaking, spinning, cord dollies, lacemaking, church tapestries and embroidery - in the Barbican Theatre. Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-838 4141). 12-5.30pm, free.

★ **GRAND TEDDY BEARS PICNIC:** Competitions, celebrity bears, video, Winnie the Pooh readings and other festive events. Stretton, near Stafford (0898 861388). 11am-5pm, £2, child £1.

★ **OLD MAY DAY FAIR:** Revival of an old Welsh tradition with crafts, local food, music and other entertainments. Welsh Folk Museum, St Fagan's, Cardiff (0222 569411). 10am-5pm, £2, child £1.

★ **WELSH OF KENT CRAFT SHOW:** More than 80 different crafts displayed. Rensley House, Canterbury, Kent. 10am-5pm. Small admission charge. Information 04252 72511.

★ **BRITISH CRAFT AND HOBBY FAIR:**

**Compiled by Peter Dear
and Jane Rackham**

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/265m;1089kHz/275m;VHF-88-90.2.
Radio 2: 693kHz/433m;609kHz/330m;VHF-88-90.2. Radio 3: 1215kHz/
247m; VHF-90-92.5. Radio 4: 198kHz/1515m;VHF-92-95. LBC: 1152kHz/
261m;VHF 97.3. Capital: 1548kHz/194m;VHF95.8. BBC Radio London:

THE ARTS

TELEVISION

Visiting Ireland

There were strange goings on in Ireland this weekend. Those of us who could not bear to watch Jimmy White's failure yet again to meet his destiny turned from Sheffield's addictive music of the spheres to Dublin's less melodious offering - *The Eurovision Song Contest* (BBC1).

We were not completely deprived of musical entertainment, however, because there were jolly Irish jigs between the entries. The gods, or a quick call to Belgrade, amusingly ensured that Terry Wogan's persistent derision of Yugoslavia's song was trumped by that country ensuring that Switzerland plucked up the post.

Troubles (ITV), Christopher Morahan's enjoyable, well acted, if over-long film of J.G. Farrell's exquisitely bizarre novel about a shell-shocked English major in Ireland after the First World War, had a few production problems which prevented Charles Sturridge from directing as well as writing the script. (Sturridge, though, was not short of exposure, popping up as a junior in Channel 4's rerun of *If...*).

After a heavy handed insertion of battle scenes, this first part of the adaptation cut and elided to good effect, making the major's grasp of the personally surreal, and politically only too real, events even less sure than in the book. And the device of the letter writers speaking to camera worked well. Ian Charleson delicately rationed his Scottish brogue as the major and Ian Richardson ably led the splendid cast of eccentrics.

Everyman (BBC1) with *God's Own Country* confirmed the recent tendency of television's most distinguished religious programmes to take Christianity at its face value, even when it pulls an unpleasant one.

Once, *Everyman* offered splendid anthropological programmes, social documentaries and dramas worthy of any secular department. Last night, however, they gave a peculiar Christmas slant to the American elections with a counterpointing of Pat Robertson and Jesse Jackson.

Despite some critical voices of reason, Robertson was presented as though he were more than an acceptable face of a sinister coalition of the well meaning deluded and dangerous charlatans, and even Jimmy Swaggart's sexual shenanigans was described only as "his fall".

Andrew Hislop

Behind Dean Benedetti's long-lost night-club recordings of Charlie "Bird" Parker in full flight lies one of jazz's most romantic stories. Richard Williams traces their creation, loss and recovery

Caught on the wing

Only the discovery of the Buddy Bolden cylinder, that much discussed and probably non-existent wax artefact said to preserve the sound of the first true jazz musician, could have upstaged the announcement last week of the unearthing in California of Dean Benedetti's recordings of Charlie Parker. It is news that will finally lay to rest one of the most romantic minor legends of the Beat Generation.

Benedetti, a Utah-born boy who seems to have sprung from the pages of a Kerouac novel, proved himself to be among the most committed of all jazz fans. It is said that in the early 1940s, as an obscure young dance-band saxophonist, he wandered into Minton's Playhouse in Harlem, the crucible of the emerging bebop revolution, and found his life forever changed by the alto saxophone playing of Parker, who was on his way to becoming the central figure of modern jazz. At first Benedetti tried to copy the great man's style; soon, though, realizing the futility of his ambition, he abandoned a playing career and began to follow Parker around the United States.

Subsidizing his travels by the sort of small-time drug dealing that flourished around the jazz scene in general and Parker in particular, the disciple began to record his master's playing on portable equipment. According to an evocative passage in Ross Russell's 1973 biography of Parker, *Bird Lives*, Benedetti grew particularly adept at disguising his activities in order to avoid the attention of unfriendly club owners and musicians' union officials. He would drill holes in a club ceiling through which to hang his microphone, hide his wiring by matching its colour to the club's decor, and sit hidden in a locked lavatory cubicle, cradling his precious recording apparatus.

So single-minded that he preserved only Parker's participation in the music, switching his equipment off when the likes of Dizzy Gillespie or Miles Davis took a solo, Benedetti pursued his obsession from the Onyx Club and the Three Deuces on New York's 52nd Street to the Downbeat in Boston, Chicago's Parkland Hotel and Billy Berg's in Hollywood.

Eventually, though, as the fire of the modern jazz movement began to cool, he emigrated to Italy and died of pneumonia at Torre del Lago Puccini, just north of Florence, in 1957. He was 34, the age at which Parker had died two years earlier in New York.

Since then the Parker legacy has become a minor industry, and one likely to receive a considerable boost shortly with the release of *Bird*, a feature film based on Parker's life, produced and directed by Clint Eastwood.

"Only in jazz," says the critic Gary Giddins in his 1987 book *Celebrating Bird*, "is the official work frequently qualified by ancillary discoveries." Giddins is one of many Parker admirers who adduce the evidence of a variety of posthumously released material, bootlegged and legit-



The object of Benedetti's obsession: Charlie Parker seen on stage in Los Angeles, 1946

mate, in support of the belief that his best playing took place not in the laboratory environment of the recording studio, but rather amid the cut-and-thrust of nightclubs.

Norman Graess, the impresario who put Parker on his Jazz at the Philharmonic tours and produced most of his later recordings, is not so sure. "I don't really agree with the theory that you should preserve every scrap of material just because of who Parker was. He was stimulated by the presence of his peers - I presented him with people like Lester Young and Johnny Hodges - or by unusual material. I'm not sure his surroundings made much difference to him."

Nevertheless, some of the posthumous finds have been spectacular: notably a cornucopia of radio broadcasts with Navarro and Bud Powell at Birdland in 1950, a fascinating 1943 hotel-room jam session with Gillespie and an imperious guest appearance with an obscure Washington-based big band in 1953.

All this has served only to increase speculation concerning the whereabouts of the fruit of Benedetti's labours. Now the faded lost texts have been tracked down - to the perhaps disappointingly mundane surroundings of Burbank, California, where they have been discovered in the possession of his older brother, a retired Lake Tahoe

nightclub owner, who has been sitting on them for 30-odd years.

Last week, Rick Benedetti sold his brother's legacy to Mosaic Records, a small Connecticut company which specializes in high-quality, limited-edition reissues of rare jazz recordings. Charlie Lourie, a director of Mosaic, says that the first surprise was that the recordings were made not with a wire machine, as had been believed, but on disc-cutting equipment, which itself has now passed to Mosaic along with the cache.

The 51 shellac discs and 14 rolls of magnetic tape have gone to the Washington studio of Jack Towers, a specialist in audio restoration noted for his work on Parker, Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman and others for the Smithsonian Institute and various record companies.

"The sound quality is spotty," Lourie says of the music in its present state. "In some places it sounds excellent, in others it's terrible. It was recorded in difficult circumstances on primitive equipment. But Jack seems to think that he can extract something good from them."

Dean Benedetti left the recordings among other possessions, deposited with his brother for safe keeping, when he left for Italy in the early Fifties. Rick Benedetti first became aware that they had a value in 1955, when Dean wrote to him from Italy to say that Rick should keep a particularly keen eye on them, since he had just rejected an offer of \$10,000 for them following Parker's death. But it was not until Rick Benedetti saw reports of Clint Eastwood's project that he felt the time was finally right to go public.

"Rick offered them to Eastwood, without success," Lourie reports. "Then he tried the major record companies, but they weren't interested. Eventually he was put in touch with us." After several months of talks, they agreed a deal last week.

"It's something I never believed would happen," says Tony Williams, one of the world's leading Parker experts, whose Hertfordshire-based company, Spotted Records, has released several albums of rare material by the saxophonist. "I've heard rumours for years that the recordings were in the hands of Benedetti's relatives, probably in Sicily, but nothing ever came of them. No one suspected the existence of a brother in California."

Lourie envisages the release of a set of three LPs, perhaps before the end of the year. "They won't be the sort of records that you put on when you want to settle down in an armchair, pour a cognac and relax after a hard day at the office," he says. "This is research material, really, for scholars and 'completists' - the kind of people who feel they have to own every note Charlie Parker recorded. But when you listen to it, you really get the ambience of sitting in a night club in the middle of America in the 1940s. You can practically smell the atmosphere."

PERCUSSION FESTIVAL

Without a voice

Limbrick/Nexus Almeida Theatre

Percussion '88 took its leave of London on Saturday. It has given us an instructive and often inspiring sample of what the 20th century has done with man's most instinctive way of making music without using his voice. More, next year, please.

In his one-man show in the afternoon, Simon Limbrick gave three works, not counting the unannounced encore for solo snare drum. This was a veritable Paganini Caprice of a piece, and hugely enjoyable. Was it Limbrick's own?

He also gave the world premiere of a work collectively composed by his group, Man Jumping, and called *Tokyo Mix*. Part of an eight-hour cycle, this piece uses a mixture of pre-programmed sounds and a hi-tech, tuned electronic percussion instrument, played like a marimba. The patterns, timbres and resonances were fascinating, and the power produced by such little effort awesome, but that was all.

David Owen's *Togue* (1986), for Latin American-style drums, is a rhythmically sophisticated piece, demanding formidable technical agility and subtlety, while James Dillon's *Tre-Lite-Dua* of 1979 is equally complex in structure, though, just as direct in effect. Limbrick gave both works with all the confidence and energy they demanded.

Later the four members of the Canadian group, Nexus, brought to the Festival two early percussion works by John Cage, the *Quartet for Percussion*, no instruments specified (1935) and the *Trio* (1936). The Quartet (actually Cage's first percussion piece) resourcefully exploits the musical possibilities of everyday objects. The emphasis in the short Trio, on the other hand, is upon austerity, in instrumentation and gesture. Every clash of wood is significant.

There are also four pieces put together by Nexus themselves, but the loveliest of their home-made contributions was a hypnotic arrangement of an African funeral song for marimbas, its stage matched here only by Takemitsu's evergreen *Rain Tree*.

Stephen Pettitt

Orchestra wins

OPERA

The Knot Garden
Covent Garden

It could almost have been calculated to show that Tippett's third opera is a garden more of stunning orchestral displays, and surprising musical pathways than of psychological knots. Here was Sian Edwards, in a spectacular debut for herself and her sex, unfolding and empowering a performance of immense variety and vividness, gloriously supported by an orchestra that brought all the images to life: the oceanic horn calls, the spiky ostinatos of frustration, the rambling percussion, the upbeat electric (blue) guitar.

It was for these things, and for the creative spontaneity tumbling from them together, that the work seemed to exist. Just as Tippett's words, notoriously, exist only to label melodic thoughts that appear

to be primary, so here the whole drama came very near being only an excuse for the score, a way perhaps for the composer to explain to himself his own richly-productive instinct.

Nicholas Hymn, the producer, might have tried to counter or else to explore the inevitable datedness in the piece, but instead he comes to it freshly and with trust. The heavy metaphors and the geometrical symmetry are honoured and even intensified: in the second act the circular knot garden of Bob Crowley's set lifts to reveal a rotating prison-maze of perspective cubicles, in which the characters are whirled about, and Denise enters from the symbolic Great World Outside, which the duet for Flora and Dov tries to screen off again with a wall of roses.

Anne Howells, who alone looks, stands, and moves well as Thea, rises to her big solo, and Linda Kitchen pipes her wild shyness effectively as Flora, but otherwise the cast seem over-awed and outshone by the orchestra.

Paul Griffiths

Missa Solemnis

Festival Hall

The notoriously cruel vocal lines of the *Missa Solemnis* understandably seem perverse to those who have to sing them. But it is important to sense the philosophical necessity of this supposed "impracticability."

A clue may lie in the *Crudo*, where Beethoven produces one of his most extraordinary inspirations at the words "et homo factus est." God was made man, therefore (in Beethoven's conception) man must reciprocate by showing he has something of God within him. Hence the "superhuman" vocal requirements.

Too often, of course, singers reveal all too obvious earthly failings. In this performance, however, the exemplary discipline and control of the Brighton Festival Chorus allowed at least a partial glimpse of the idealistic vision in the imagination of the composer.

Antal Dorati took an epic view of the work. His interpretation, however, was not without an aptly unsettled, probing quality. Dorati is an old enough hand to know that great musical mysteries, like the

CONCERTS

suddenly subdued coda of the *Crudo*, are best left mysterious: unresolved and certainly not dogmatic.

The Dutch mezzo, Jari van Nes, produced the most ardent solo singing, though Stafford Dean's bass solos in the *Agony Dei* equalled her in intensity. Robert Tear was always dependable. That, unfortunately, could not be said for the American soprano Jo Ann Pickens, whose control seemed alarmingly tenuous in the high register.

Richard Morrison
RLPO/Pesek
Liverpool

It was a particularly good idea to mount a series of 24 contemporary music concerts to welcome the opening of Tate Gallery Liverpool at the end of this month. More than that, the programme assembled by James Wishart has an unusual and individual flavour.

But it may have been a less good idea to open the festival with a concert in the RLPO's Saturday

series. Rossini's *William Tell* Overture is hardly a suitable piece with which to launch such an imaginative range of concerts; nor is the Messiaen-Ravel Pictures at an Exhibition, particularly in the happy-go-lucky (or occasionally unlucky) performance given on this occasion by a somewhat tired-sounding orchestra.

On the other hand, there may have been a certain virtue in including Scriabin's Piano Concerto from the last years of the 19th century. In Garriick Ohlsson's gentle and finely controlled performance, this amiable work seemed to represent everything from which 20th century music was trying to escape.

So Luigi Nono's beautiful *Due expressions* of 1953 had the task of representing music appropriate to the new gallery. Although partly drowned by a barrage of coughs and giggles, Liber Pesek directed a superbly balanced performance of Nono's delicate textures. Orchestral sounds rarely come more refined and evocative than this. Here at last was an appropriate upbeat to the festival called "Upbeat to the Tate 88".

David Fallows

Hell in a cell

THEATRE

Doctor Faustus
Young Vic

London now has three Fausts on show - four if you distinguish between the two parts of Simon Callow's Goethe marathon - and this is the Marlowe original.

The text is played virtually uncut on an apron stage in an auditorium transformed to hint at, among other things, the round O of the Elizabethan theatre. Marble columns rise from the stalls to suggest also the interior of a circular temple, at the heart of which stands Faustus's cylindrical cell, where bookshelves form the imprisoning walls.

The scholarly environment is sustained by the raised stage, constructed from school desks fitted snugly into tables, and the whole is capped by a brilliant blue sky-chart. Director Anthony Clark, and Kate Burnett, designer, partners from Manchester's Contact Theatre, emphasize the didactic element throughout.

All the actors save for Peter Guinness's Faustus begin as gowned students seated at the first row of desks. They are both Chorus and characters, but the ingenuity of the doubling is not entirely satisfactory, and is easier to accept when they are shocked citizens than when being persuaded to act as demons.

Nor does the production resolve the play's awkward mixture of matchless poetry and wasted potential. But it does score strongly on visual effects, bringing on vast sheets of golden cloth to



Resonant despair: Peter Guinness

dazzle the eye, and a Mephistophilis from Stephen Jean, hairless and frequently motionless as a window dummy, never letting his hungry eyes stray from his victim.

The antics at the Papal court are genuinely funny (more gold cloth here), presided over by Jon Strickland's Pope, unnervingly resembling Paul VI.

Guinness's voice is pregnant with thought, resonant with echoes, and is able to get into the crannies of meaning in the lines. Despair is present from the start and never leaves him, but some quality has gone out of his performance by the end, for his voice fails to find the tragedy in his last speeches.

It is a long evening at three and a quarter hours and it is not without dull patches, but elsewhere boldly inventive and marvellous to look at.

Jeremy Kingston

Personal services

Sinners and Saints
Croydon Warehouse

Stephen (Timothy Watson) is a one-man, privatized social service; or, as his androgynous looks suggest, an unattached angel of mercy who, like those in Auden's poem, weeps over the talkative city.

But he does more than weep, he ministers to social casualties like anorexic Ivy, raped by her father at 14, and Ben, a pensioner who, having lost both legs at Alamein, is unable to get out of bed. He supports this life of shamelessly unprofitable altruism by selling his own, personal, services to somewhat more privileged casualties of society with the hint of a capital S.

Plays about unimpaired goodness are very rare, plays which wring wry humour out of disabil-

David Wade

Doubts and debates

RADIO



Model phase-in man: Nick Ross

take notice of them, let alone give support. When the Russians go, what chance of world attention have they then? Yet their need may well be greater than ever.

Call Nick Ross remains one of the better specimens of the phonetic, generally producing something as near a debate as can be expected of this format. Last Tuesday it was heartening to hear so wide a defence of the need for a House of Lords or something to do the same job. Few of us it seems, believe that our elected representatives should be allowed to carry off without any check at all.

Would he be better served if we elected an upper chamber? There were some backers for that, al-

though in my view one of the most notable effects of the political vote is to bring to prominence rather too many people of terrifying and unshakable bias. Its greatest recommendation, therefore, is that it ensures they do not stay elected for ever.

Given that, perhaps we ought not to abandon too readily a system based on birth or elevation to the peerage. Ignoring as far as possible a rather noisy Commons-style exchange between Ross's two noble guests - Lords Boyd-Carpenter and Pousobly - it does seem to result in a more orderly House in which one can believe that deliberation and reason carry at least some weight.

I spent a delighted half hour with Rhys Adrian's Upbeats (Radio Three; director John Tydemann). What a sharp eye Adrian has for those situations in which our lives visibly begin to run us commencing being an outpatient in hospital or - as last Tuesday - the lunatic excesses of the housing market.

Such plays have the appearance of a joke, yet the situation and dialogue - the latter constructed very largely out of carefully worked clichés - together create a small but potent sense of danger, eerily suggesting that the familiar world they portray so precisely is without any solid foundation at all. Which, indeed, is very probably the case.

THE WORLD'S MOST PAINLESS OPERA HOUSE

Most surely be the Regal Opera House, Heckmondwike. Although this fine Regency edifice contains an auditorium of only modest proportions, the interval bars, of which there are no less than seven, are enormous and lavishly appointed. This is because the nature of the performances dictates that patrons spend rather more time in the bar than is customary with grand opera. Instead of being expected to sit through a dreary five-hour work, with only a couple of short breaks for refreshment, the Regal Opera House stages intervals of five hours, which are interrupted by short, specially-composed operas, none of which is more than five minutes long. Among the most popular titles are such masterpieces of brevity as "Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg," "Carmen Down the Pub Tonight," "The Beverage of Figaro," "Boris Godunov by the end of the road," and "Gottterdammerung wait-until-

thenextinterval." But the all-time favourite, in a performance sponsored by Bewick's Bank, is Kevin Mozart's "Don Giovanni overcidersquiere?" inspired by the one occasion when the opera house ran out of Merrydown Vintage Cider and almost closed down as a result. Such is the discrimination of the patrons that Merrydown is deemed the only cider worthy of this temple of culture, because Merrydown uses only fine English apples like Bramleys and Cox's in its fermentation, instead of the bitter little cider apples used in those brands popular with less cultivated sectors of the musical public. Is it therefore any wonder that in operatic circles, it is whispered that Merrydown is the favourite tipple of the great Carousier himself?



Merrydown. Aids for the few

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

STOCK MARKET
(Change on week)FT 30 Share
1443.9 (+32.3)FT-SE 100
1802.2 (+30.6)Bergains
27276 (28201)USM (Datastream)
151.94 (+2.85)THE POUND
(Change on week)US dollar
1.8785 (-0.0115)W German mark
3.1446 (-0.0174)Trade-weighted
78.4 (-0.3)Bell chief
sold stake
'for more
privacy'

Perth (Reuters) — Mr Robert Holmes a Court, the Australian corporate raider, broke his silence at the weekend to explain that he sold 40 per cent of his flag ship company because he wanted a more private life.

"Having sold substantially my holdings I have a wish to be more private," he said in an interview with the Perth Sunday Times, his only comment to the media so far on the Aus\$333 million (£135 million) sale of his controlling interest in the Bell Group.

In a move that stunned local financial markets, Mr Holmes a Court sold almost all his shares in the company he built up over 17 years.

The shares went in two equal parcels to Mr Alan Bond's Bond Corporation and the State Government Insurance Commission of Western Australia at prices well above ruling market levels.

"My wish was to move out of the public corporate sector. I feel the shares are in good hands and delighted they are with W.A. (Western Australian) companies," he said.

Mr Holmes a Court said he would remain Bell chairman for the time being.

"Just as I didn't sell my interest until I was completely satisfied the company was in good shape and had completed the post-raid phase, I will remain at Bell Group until I am satisfied there is nothing else I can do to guide it through its change of direction," he said.

The report said Mr Holmes a Court laughed off rumours which swept the Australian financial markets late last week that he was in bad health.

He said he would like to see Bond Corporation eventually merge with the Bell Group.

The South African-born businessman built his empire from nothing.

Racial bid
speculation
increases

By Our City Staff

The identity of the predator whose shadow is said to have hurried Racial into unveiling plans to float its Vodafone cellular telephone operator remains a mystery, despite growing speculation that the telecommunications group, was on the brink of launching a hostile bid for Racial last week.

As millions of Racial shares changed hands over the past few weeks, talk swept the City that a predator was stalking the British electronics group, which leads the British market for mobile telephones.

Speculation about the most likely predators swiftly focused on C&W, GEC and Siemens, the big West German electrical group.

Many analysts felt that cash-rich Siemens was the most likely candidate. GEC, they suspected, would be unwilling to pay enough to secure Racial — whose shares climbed 81p last week — and they felt that C&W already had enough on its plate.

Despite speculation this weekend that Sir Eric Sharp, C&W's chairman, was talking to his advisers about launching a bid, a C&W spokesman would only say yesterday: "We never comment on market rumours."

The success C&W has made of its Mercury subsidiary, which is licensed to challenge British Telecom's monopoly, would be likely to make the Monopolies Commission think twice about allowing it to swallow Racial.

At the same time, C&W has little interest in Racial's defence electronics businesses, while Racial would also lead it into manufacturing, an area in which it has never been involved.

These factors have led some analysts to question the likelihood that C&W is the mystery suitor waiting in the wings.

Exchange acts
on directors'
share dealings

By Lawrence Lever

Hundreds of public companies and their directors are breaking company law or Stock Exchange rules that require them to disclose directors' dealings in their own companies' shares.

In the first four months of this year, more than 150 announcements released by the Stock Exchange, many from well-known companies such as Guinness, Reuters and Laura Ashley, have revealed widespread non-compliance with rules.

The announcements are either late — in some cases more than a year later than they should be — or they do not give full information required by law or the listing regulations.

Last week, the Stock Exchange revealed that as many as 15 per cent of all announcements from public companies on their directors' share dealings are deficient. The exchange now aims to bring the defaulters into line.

Under the Companies Act 1985, a director must disclose details of his dealings in his company's shares within five working days. The disclosure must be made to the company itself, and include details of the number of shares involved, plus the price the director received or paid for them.

Under Stock Exchange listing regulations, the company must then send details of the share dealings to the exchange immediately, for announcement on its company information service. The exchange also requires companies to stipulate the date on which the director dealt.

The exchange regards the disclosure requirements as vital, since directors' dealings in their company's shares are often a useful indicator of that company's fortunes. Breach of the Companies Act provisions on disclosure is a criminal offence punishable by a fine or imprisonment of up to two years.

However, *The Times* has discovered widespread default by companies and their directors. Many defaults are inadvertent and trivial, the dealings being too small to have any impact on the share price. Others are more serious.

For instance, Energy Capital, the oil exploration and production company, disclosed details of directors' share sales several months after the event.

On February 29 it informed the exchange that one of its directors, Mr Aley Allan, had sold more than 342,000 shares on October 29, 1987. Mr Allan resigned from Energy Capital last month.

Another late disclosure from Energy Capital involved

dealings in its shares by Mr Paul Main, a director, in which he managed to make more than four times his money in less than a year.

The disclosure shows Mr Main buying 12,000 shares in Energy Capital at 24p each in August 1986. On June 26, 1987, he sold the shares — his entire holding in the company — at £1.14p each. None of this was disclosed until February 29 this year.

Mr Main said last week that he was not a director at the time he purchased his stake but had been on the board when he sold. "I was overseas at the time of my sale and I have since apologized to the board."

A Stock Exchange spokesman said about the general problem of late or incorrect announcements of directors' dealings: "We can see that the percentage level of compliance isn't as high as we would like it, and are concerned that it should be improved."

"We are anxious to clear up all the people who default accidentally. Once we do that, it should expose the more suspicious ones."

"We are in the process of developing a standard form to make disclosure more of a simple box-filling exercise."

The table shows breaches of directors' disclosure requirements involving several companies. In some cases the breaches involve trusts of which the directors are potential beneficiaries.

Although the breaches are unlikely to have affected shareholders, the companies are well known and would be expected to comply with the disclosure provisions.

There have been three deficient disclosures from Guinness this year, all concerned with sales of shares in the drinks company by members of the Guinness family.

Breaches of disclosure requirements in 1988

Company	Announcement	Type of Default
Acasos & Hultcheson	Director's sale	No date no price
Baker Harris Saunders	Director's sales	No date
Christian Salvesen	Director's sales	Late disclosure
Guinness	Director's sale	Late disclosure
Laura Ashley	Director's sale	Late disclosure
Pearson	Director's buy	No date
Reuters Holdings	Director's wife's buy	No date
Si lves	Director's sale	No date
Thorn EMI	Director's buy	Late disclosure
WH Smith	Director's buy	No date

Guinness investigation
focuses on Jersey link

By Our City Staff

Behind-the-scenes legal manoeuvres have taken the Guinness investigation to Jersey, where Fraud Squad officers have secured a vital court order to obtain a wide range of information and documents.

The information required goes back as far as 1981 and indicates the massive scale of the Fraud Squad investigation into Guinness.

The court order has been made against Mr Michael Dec, a Jersey resident. It follows a request by the Director of Public Prosecutions late last week.

Mr Dec was a director of Marketing and Acquisition Consultants (MAC), a Jersey company that was paid £5.2 million by Guinness shortly after the bid for Distillers went through.

Mr Thomas Ward, the US lawyer and former Guinness director, has admitted receiving the money via MAC. He says it represented payment to him for services he provided during the bid for Distillers.

As well as being asked to provide information on the £5.2 million, Mr Dec is also required to supply details of



Ward received £5.2m

any purchases of shares in Arthur Bell & Sons by him or associated companies.

The Times has already reported that the Guinness investigation has been extended to cover suspected insider dealing in the shares of Arthur Bell & Sons by people using Jersey and Swiss companies. There is no suggestion in the court order that Mr Dec personally took part in insider dealing.

The first stage in the Fraud Squad tangle for further information in Jersey will be an interview between Mr Dec and Mr Michael Wilkins, the Jersey Viscount, an officer of the Jersey courts.

Mr Dec is required by law to attend the interview and answer questions on oath.

The order allows "officers from the Company Fraud Department of the Metropolitan Police... to be present." A transcript of the interview will be taken and sent to Bow Street Magistrates' Court.

Mr Dec is required to provide information on MAC and a number of associated companies. The order requires him to disclose who the ultimate beneficial owners of all these companies are, as well as any instructions the companies received, going back to 1981.

The court order also asks for details of any dealings, business and personal associations between Mr Dec and a number of those people involved in the Guinness affair.

The order seeks details of any "credit facilities" arranged with the Swiss bank, Bank Leu, which played a vital role absorbing Guinness shares after the takeover of Distillers.

Moreover, details of a \$100,000 payment made by Guinness to MAC are sought. This money was paid under an invoice dated March 25, 1985.

Ward White shops for more profit



Reaching for higher earnings: Philip Birch with sons Jamie, 3, and Christopher, 5

Birch wants sharper Stanley

By David Brewerton

Mr Philip Birch, chairman of Ward White, went shopping for some DIY materials yesterday as he awaited publication of the defence document from AG Stanley for which he has made a £103 million bid.

Stanley is the UK market leader in high street DIY, and a successful acquisition would allow Ward White to consolidate its position in the market where it is already one of the big three in "superstore" stores with Fayles.

Ward White is attracted by what it believes is a big potential to increase sales per square foot at Stanley, from under £100 towards the £175 it achieves in its high street motor accessory business, Halfords. Ward White's edge-of-town units, such as the Rugby store in which Mr

Birch is pictured, achieve about £110 per square foot.

Stanley has about 500 stores, and Mr Birch might close 50 of those, mostly from among the old Home Churn outlets. But there are still some 300 places where a high street store could be viable, and about 150 new stores could be opened as soon as sites are found.

The plan is to change the retailing face of Stanley, eliminating DIY from the high street and concentrating on decorative products. Margins could be forced higher, Ward White expects, by better systems such as Epos and more buying muscle.

Analysts reckon that Ward White could push Stanley's profits to £18 million without too much excitement and on

to £25 million in due course. They are hoping to see a repeat of the Halfords experience.

But if the pattern follows Halfords, the performance could be better still. They believe Halfords could eventually show profits of £50 million, equal to the net price paid.

Meanwhile, the outcome of the Stanley bid is no foregone conclusion. The board controls 19 per cent of the equity while Williams Holdings, a leading point supplier to both companies, owns a 26 per cent shareholding.

Mr Birch tried to come to terms with Stanley before he launched the bid and tried to buy Williams's stake with equal lack of success. Mr Birch said Nigel Rudd, Williams's chairman, said "good luck" but promised no support.

Beazer has
68.5% of
Koppers

By Our City Staff

Beazer, the British house-building and construction group, has strengthened its hold on Koppers by securing 68.5 per cent of the US aggregates group. But final victory in its acrimonious battle for the Pittsburgh company still hinges on the outcome of three tangled US court battles.

While Beazer awaits the decision of the courts, it has been forced to keep extending the deadline for its \$1.8 billion (£960 million) bid. Mr Brian Beazer, the chairman, has put forward the deadline for Beazer's tender offer from midnight last Friday to May 6.

As of April 29, Beazer had received valid tenders in respect of 66 per cent of the ordinary shares of Koppers, a total which rose to 68.5 per cent with the inclusion of shares already held by BNS Inc. Beazer's bid vehicle.

Beazer is confident victory is a matter of time. Beazer is trying to untangle Koppers' "poison pill" defence in a Delaware suit, while Koppers is seeking injunctions against the bid in Pittsburgh and California.

Rowntree calls for
Government review

By Our City Staff

Mr Kenneth Dixon, the chairman of Rowntree, the York confectionery group which is fighting off an unwelcome takeover bid by Nestlé of Switzerland, yesterday urged the Government to rethink its trade policy with a view to protecting British companies against foreign takeovers.

"There are some public interest issues here that are of importance," said Mr Dixon, whose company has also attracted heavy interest from Jacobs Suchard, the Swiss coffee and chocolate group.

"Here you have a major international business that is still in the north of England."

"There is also the question of the 1992 issues. Is it as easy for British companies to buy into Europe, never mind Switzerland, as it is for companies in the rest of the EEC to buy into the UK? I don't think it is. In the present jargon, there isn't a level playing field."

And that's a matter of concern as we look ahead to what will happen to British industry as we run up to 1992.

Asked on Channel 4's *Business Programme* if he was suggesting that the government should adopt the idea of reciprocity in its policy on



Important issues: Dixon

takeover bids, he replied: "I think it should look very hard at the issues that are raised by what's going on at the moment."

Mr Dixon added that Rowntree had "done all the right things" to prepare for the opening of the European market in 1992 by building up its brands on the Continent.

Sir Adrian Cadbury, whose Cadbury Schweppes group is also being stalked by General Cinema, the US cinema owner and Pepsi Cola bottler, said on the programme that he too would like the Government to think again about its takeover policy.

Fuzzy picture at TV-am: please do not adjust your set

By Joe Joseph

TV-am is hoping that with a new chairman at the helm, its union problems at bay, and the hubbub over its Saudi backing slowly dying down, it may be entering one of the occasional brighter patches that have punctuated its see-saw tenure as Britain's commercial breakfast-time television broadcaster.

It may be too much to hope. The station's knack of plunging from controversy into crisis is only slightly less dazzling than its ability to bounce back from each new setback, as blithely as those manic Disney cartoon characters that resume life as normal just seconds after being fed through the whirling blades of a saw mill.

TV-am's troubles started early. Mr Peter Jay's mission to explain soon gave way to Roland Rat, and Anna Ford was traded in for the lighter touch of Anne Diamond. Bosses at the station's Diamond north London offices became turned over faster than the pages of a Jackie Collins novel. A few months ago, TV-am was at it again, and the headlines died of *Bermuda* and the headlines of its bitter union dispute with the ACTT was grabbing in the press.



Changing cast of characters in the drama at TV-am: (from left) Peter Jay, Jonathan Aitken, Michael Luckwell and Ian Irvine

By February, the embattled television station had sent dismissal notices to its 229 technicians who had been on strike since November in a dispute over working practices. When Mr Bruce Gyngell, its energetic, ever pink-shirted managing director, thought things could not get any worse, they did.

The disclosure that the Saudi royal family had built up a 15 per cent stake through a company run by Mr Jonathan Aitken MP — a TV-am director and cousin of Mr Timothy Aitken, TV-am's then chairman — plunged the station into fresh gloom.

The Independent Broadcasting

Authority threatened to revoke TV-am's franchise unless the Saudi interest was reduced swiftly below the 10 per cent ceiling allowed non-EEC interests. Mr Gyngell, meanwhile, had a heart attack.

Mr Jonathan Aitken now accepts that he gave the confidentiality of his Saudi Arabian backers too much sway over the candour he should have offered to his fellow directors in the TV-am boardroom.

The controversial involvement began when the Saudis, investing through a Netherlands Antilles foundation, invested money in non-voting dividend participation certificates. Using the Curacao

foundation meant the Saudis would be able to draw on the returns of an investment they did not control.

Just when the Saudis' involvement graduated from being passive to active is hazy. What is not hazy is that Beaverbrook Investments, which owned 15 per cent of TV-am through its subsidiary Aitken Communications, is controlled by members of the Saudi royal family through Al Bilad, a company of which Mr Jonathan Aitken is managing director.

The nature of the holding shook up the boardroom at TV-am and sparked yet another fiery row

between the Aitken cousins. The IBA disenfranchised the Saudi-controlled shareholding and warned that TV-am's licence was in jeopardy unless the Saudi link was unravelled to its satisfaction, and quickly.

Beaverbrook took the first step by selling a 5 per cent stake in TV-am to Mr Michael Luckwell, former boss of Carlton Communications, the television services company. Last week it took the second when it bought out the disgruntled minority shareholders in Beaverbrook.

Once Beaverbrook's latest accounts are finalized, it is likely that

Mr Aitken will either sell off the remaining 10 per cent TV-am stake or perhaps even the whole of Beaverbrook. Mr Luckwell has already put down a marker for the rest of the stake.

Mr Peter de Savary, the businessman and yacht-racing fan, has also expressed an interest. So too has a British public company with media ambitions.

The IBA and Mr Ian Irvine — the chief executive of Mr Paul Hamlyn's Octopus publishing empire and the new chairman of TV-am after Mr Timothy Aitken quit — are both keen to see what becomes of the 10 per cent of TV-am's equity still in Beaverbrook's hands.

Mr Luckwell has kept both the IBA and the TV-am board informed and says he has not met any resistance so far. Other insiders say the TV-am boardroom is not keen to see a new 15 per cent shareholder begin throwing his weight around.

On a good day the goings-on in the backrooms of the Birn-led BBC can give TV-am a run for its money. In the coming weeks, though, the affairs of TV-am are likely to make the more interesting reading. Viewing is something else.

MACH 88 orders total £47m

By David Young

Record orders, worth an initial £47.75 million, have been placed at this year's International Machine Tool and Manufacturing Technology Exhibition, MACH 88.

More than 69,000 businessmen visited the exhibition in Birmingham.

Dr Stephen LeBeau, marketing director of Bridgeport, said: "Obviously our international distributors used the exhibition as an opportunity to review our products and place orders, but totally unexpected orders for more than £250,000 were taken from UK companies who had come to the show to make investment decisions."

Mr Malcolm Scarlett, sales and marketing director of Cincinnati Milacron, said: "Over 50 per cent of inquiries were from UK companies that we have not had any previous dealing with. Also good sales leads were taken from most of the European countries as well as Turkey, Israel, India, South Africa and Australia."

Mr Jeremy Gough, managing director of Elliott Industries Marketing, reported £750,000 of business at the show.

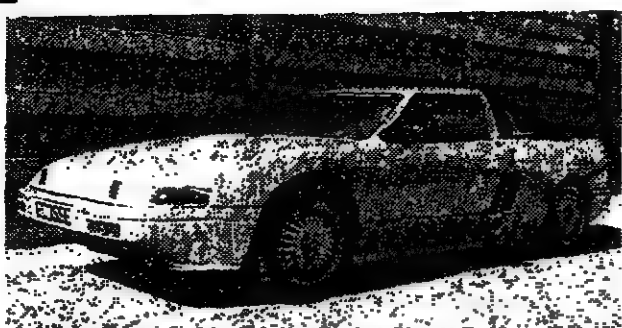
New UK car maker plans autumn debut for sports model

By Daniel Ward
Motor Industry Correspondent

A new British car manufacturer, Ecosse Car Company, will launch its first sports car at the Birmingham motor show in October when the management team, made up mainly of former Ford executives, sets out to prove that building £20,000 sports cars in low volume can be highly profitable.

The project is unusual because it was bought from the receivers of AC (Scotland), which had spent an estimated £800,000 developing the Ecosse car before running out of funds in 1985. The team that has taken it over is headed by Mr James Capolongo, former president of Ford of Europe.

Mr David Backsell, managing director of Ecosse, says the new company is avoiding the pitfall of having to fund high development costs and manufacturing facilities which faces most fledgling sports car makers.



Sporting chance: the Ecosse will sell at about £20,000

It will be possible to put the car into production for £450,000 because most of the costly development and type approval testing was carried out by the former owner.

The car will be built by a big vehicle maker on a sub-contract basis when it goes into production next February. Mr Capolongo forecasts the project will break even on output of 100 cars a year and will be "an excellent company at 200 cars a year". Overheads will be kept low and the company does not expect to employ

more than 25 people directly.

A maximum of £750,000 is needed for the venture, with the founders already providing £300,000 and underwriting a further £150,000. The first offer for funds under the Business Expansion Scheme raised £50,000.

A second issue is expected to raise between £150,000 and £200,000 and "up to £350,000 of corporate money" has been offered, Mr Backsell said. Break-even is forecast for autumn next year.

Business optimistic, says IoD

By Rodney Low
Economics Editor

Britain's business leaders have recovered their optimism about the economy after the shock to confidence from the share price crash.

Nine out of 10 directors now believe their companies are doing either "very well" or "fairly well," according to the latest bi-monthly survey by the Institute of Directors.

The proportion of directors who are "more optimistic" has recovered from about a third, just after the crash, to a half. Higher optimism stems from rising turnover and higher profits. Four out of five directors report an upward trend in the volume of their business and 68 per cent say profits are increasing.

Job prospects are also brighter, with 62 per cent expecting to increase employment levels in their companies in the next six months.

Mrs Judith Chaplin, head of the IoD's policy unit, said: "The Chancellor's message in his Budget was that the UK economy is still growing strongly. Our survey shows this optimism to be well-founded."

Laporte moves head office

By Our Industrial Staff

Laporte Industries, Britain's second-largest independent chemicals company, is moving its headquarters from London to Luton where it already has large administrative and manufacturing facilities.

The move takes Laporte, which employs 4,300 at 120 sites in 23 countries, to Luton in its centenary year.

Laporte set up a plant in the town in 1898 to produce hydrogen peroxide for the straw hat industry.

The business was started in Yorkshire in 1898 by Mr Bernard Laporte.

The move will consolidate the group's two administrative units into one international organization.

Improvements in offices at Luton and the growing importance of the town's airport, its

motorway links and the fast train services, have been cited as a reason for moving.

Laporte has sales of about £500 million a year, with the production of hydrogen peroxide still playing a large part in the company product line.

It also produces absorbents, building and timber treatment chemicals and chemicals for the paper and water treatment industries.

Stockwatcher prize doubled

Can you identify the businessman from the photographic clue. If not, pick up your telephone and call 0898-141-400, where you will hear our mystery guest talking about his company. Identify him, and four other businessmen this week and £2,000 of unit trusts could be yours.

Our Stockwatcher competition, with £50,000 worth of unit trusts from Equitable Life as prizes, is now in its third week, and we have doubled the prize money.

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Christian Davis discusses the future of a great British institution

Pubs are next in retail revolution

The high street revolution is upon us, with shopping areas being turned into precincts or piazzas lined with alluring shop frontages. Yet what of that greatest of British retail outlets - the public house?

Views conflict. One view is: "Pubs have no part in the high street party" and are "about as welcoming as a hospital outpatients' department." Another maintains: "A traditional pub, properly presented, is a winning formula."

Ironically, the first quote came from a senior manager within one of the leading brewers, at the unveiling of a new company to develop a chain of high street café bars with names like Muswells and Calendars. The second view came from Mr Michael Cottrell who, after 27 years with Courage, is now chairman of First Leisure.

Many brewers are now calling their managers and tenants "retailers". With a view to the possible recommendations of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission's inquiry into the tied-house system, and all-day opening just a few months away, the brewers' tie is being loosened and their pub estates are being opened up to let in the retail revolution.

Hitherto, there were just two players in the pub game -

the brewers and free traders. Now, it seems, everyone wants to join in. We have retailers such as the Heron Group, led by Mr Gerald Ronson, and leisure groups, such as Mr George Walker's Brent Walker, snapping up small Watney pubs that sell about two barrels of beer a week, and caterers such as Mr Rocco Forte's Trusthouse Forte taking over Courage pubs.

So if pubs are as bad as Mr Ian Og of Ind Coope's new-launched Parosol Corporation says, why the interest?

It comes back to this "revolution in retailing". Shopping has to be fun now, and the consumer who has become more complex and more demanding has to be seduced into parting with his or her money.

In the same way that shopping is no longer about the bare essentials, some eating and drinking out is no longer purely about hunger and thirst. It has to be an experience, and increasingly people will not put up with a place that discourages women, is smoky and generally adopts a "take-it-or-leave-it" attitude.

As a result there has been a shake-up in the industry. The brewers are looking for ways of unlocking the resources tied up in their tied estate while companies such as First Leisure, Brent Walker, Trusthouse Forte and Mecca are only too well aware of the profit potential of a successful on-licensed outlet.

Mr Ron Hart, after 10 years with Whitbread, is now managing director of Brent Walker's new inns division, which was formed to run the 382 Watney pubs it has bought from Grand Metropolitan.

He said: "With the changing face of British pubs, they can no longer be a success if they are solely dispensing beer."

The key to success with pubs is through the catering.



Key players: George Walker (left) and Gerald Ronson



Food for thought: Michael Cottrell (left) and Ron Hart

taken outside the home are eaten in pubs, said Mr Cottrell of First Leisure. "That makes McDonald's look pretty small fry."

Mr John Lee, managing director of Parosol, said: "With our outlets it is food first and liquor second. We are about eating for fun rather than for fuel."

A recent report, *The Future Profitability of the UK Pub*, from the drinks industry strategy group of LCB Consultants, said pubs are "wallowing in tradition rather than building on it". Hence the number of pubs is falling and the percentage owned by the brewers is also down, while the number of licensed outlets overall has increased.

The high street banks and shops claim business is booming - credit is up, turnover is up and profits are up - but

most people use a specific pub not because of a specific beer it serves but because they like its atmosphere or its publican.

First Leisure bought 18 pubs in Hampshire and Sussex last year. Although it is more used to running huge discos and night clubs as well as the Blackpool Tower and a couple of seaside piers, Mr Cottrell is adamant that those pubs will not be themed or branded but will remain traditional.

"If you have a pub in the right location with the right landlord, then it will work," he said. "The most successful on-licensed outlet is the one-off local."

Mr Cottrell says that, contrary to popular belief, the brewers have done a good job in moving pubs along with the times. The fact that 84 per cent of liquor sales in Britain goes through on-trade, compared to 15 per cent in France and about 40 per cent in Australia, is a testament to that.

"If you go to Australia, their bars are appalling. They say no to food and no to females so, because of the restrictions on licences, most of their trade ironically is through their take-home bottle shops," he said.

With his Courage background and the fact that 30 per cent of First Leisure's turnover is in liquor, Mr Cottrell knows that drink sales are the most important element of an on-licensed outlet, but to attract people you must have food.

Pub innovation in the 1970s and early 1980s was marked with what Mr Lee calls the "plastic disasters". The brewers do not want to do that again, and they are bringing in people who know the retail trade, so that they and their pubs do not lose out on the retail revolution.

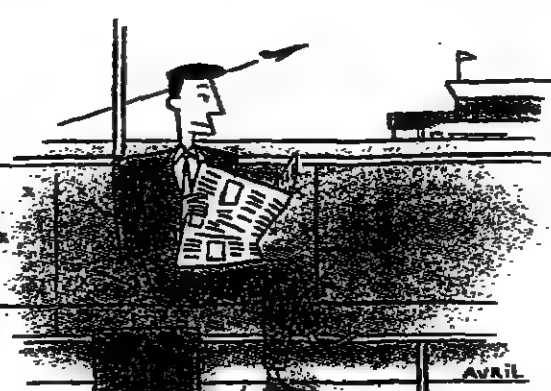
The author is editor of *Publican*.

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HORIZONS

A guide to
career choice

New life for old lace

In our occasional series on career opportunities DEREK MORGAN looks at employment prospects in Robin Hood's Nottingham

There is a livelier look these days to the stone lions that flank Nottingham's Council House. In common with other areas in the North and Midlands, Nottingham, with a population of 281,000, has had to make tough decisions in order to be competitive, but now there are signs of new life in this attractive and resilient city.

Best known of its manufactures are lace, pharmaceuticals, bicycles and cigarettes — all relatively "light" industries. Bicycles and cigarettes have seen a labour shake-out in the name of higher productivity and prospects for the streamlined core are promising.

Raleigh, sold by Tube Investments to an American-led consortium, employs 1,200 as against 8,000 a few years ago. Recently, however, Britain's biggest cycle maker (it celebrated its centenary in 1987, having started with 12 workers and three machines a week) has taken on temporary staff to meet seasonal demand.

Not far away, in the north-west of the city, John Player (part of Imperial Tobacco) has been coping with falling cigarette consumption. Only 2,500 now work at the Horizon factory, compared with 4,000 in 1980, but improved efficiency is paying dividends, and expanding overseas markets may balance shrinking domestic demand.

Victorian enterprise is still prominent, then, in local industry (Frank Bowden founded Raleigh; John Player began with a tobacco shop) but the man who had the greatest impact was Jess Boot. The High Street retail and manufacturing giant that bears his name is the area's largest private employer with 11,000 staff, mostly at the Beeston complex. Last year it announced a big investment programme and in November reported record half-year profits. This year Boots will be recruiting more than 400 graduates — 75 for general management and 350 in pharmacy.

High technology is contributing increasingly to city industry and just up the road from Boots, the Plessey Telecommunications Group in Technology Drive, employs 4,000. Their ISDX (integrated services digital exchange) is the country's top-selling business telecom system.

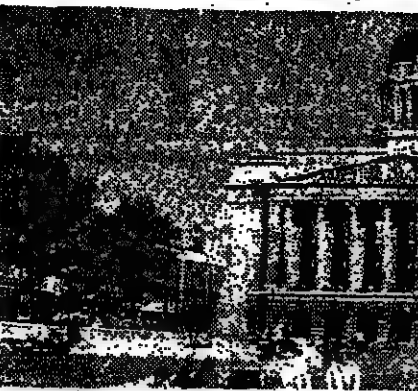
Nottingham's new tourist motto is "City of Lace and Legend" and lace is the product most closely associated with the city. It doesn't employ anywhere near the numbers it used to — the lace girls and the "Player's Angels" gave the city a reputation for attractive ladies which happily survives — but it is a busy industry and now doing well with its return to the fashion pages.

More than 25 per cent of clothes manufactured in the UK are made here. Not many people know that, but the

textile industry and the City Council are moving to put that right. A fashion centre has been established in the heart of the renovated Lace Market, to act as a link between manufacturers, designers and retailers and to act as a showcase for local talent.

The manager, Brian Stanley, says trade is buoyant, "every company could expand and some firms are turning down orders due to skill shortages." Most of the 300 businesses are small and can respond quickly to changes in fashion but many have vacancies for sewing machinists, although a Clothing Operatives Training Scheme is making an impression on the problem.

Last October the first Festival of Nottingham Fashion had a positive response from manufacturers and could become an annual event. The industry is using computer-aided design to reduce cloth wastage and Trent Polytechnic, with a national reputation for the excellence of its Fashion and Textile Department, has invested heavily in



The Old Market Place, Nottingham, known to local people as "Slab Square"

CAD/CAM equipment.

Diversity is enabling the local economy to navigate choppy waters. "The Nottinghamshire coalfield is highly efficient and other well-known firms are Bell Fruit Machines, ZF Gears, Port Farm Foods, the newly privatized Royal Ordnance Factory (Vickers), and three breweries (Shipstone, Hardy and Hanson and Home Ales). Central Television, formerly serving the East Midlands from Birmingham, now has an impressive Nottingham studio.

Attempts to attract hi-tech are paying off. A second phase has opened at Highfields Science Park, handily placed next to the university for technological teamwork. A Business Park is being established on the Plessey site, to house firms in the business forefront. Pafco, a leading name in CAD/CAM software is based at Strelley Hall.

Entrepreneurial vitality is encouraging at grass roots. The second Nottinghamshire Enterprise Show will sell its exhibition space comfortably by April. The Fashion Enterprise Workshops on Lower Parliament Street offer modern studio accommodation to young designers. Stephanie Weightman, who makes bellows, now employs 12

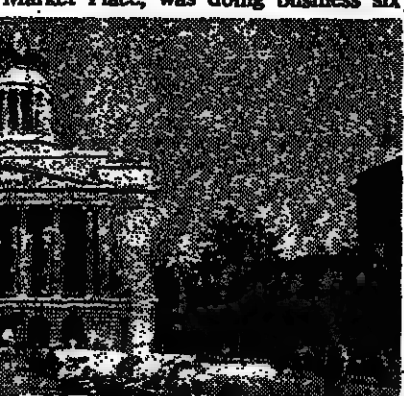
people, and Dessous Lingerie six.

It's not all roses (though Nottingham is an important rose-growing area, with Harry Wheatcroft to the fore) and at Derby an already trimmed-down British Rail Engineering Ltd recently announced more job cuts. Despite Stock Exchange troubles, the business community is optimistic. Unemployment in Nottingham's travel-to-work area is 11 per cent.

PER (Professional and Executive Recruitment) report that there is demand for accountants — "anything to do with computers — systems analysts".

A selling point is Nottingham's central location at the apex of the East Midlands triangle it forms with Derby (BREL, Rolls Royce aircraft engines, RR and Associates nuclear engineering) and Leicester (engineering, hosiery, snack foods, the headquarters of Next and the British Shoe Corporation).

Commercial activities like banking (Smiths Bank, now NatWest, in the Market Place, was doing business six



The Old Market Place, Nottingham, known to local people as "Slab Square"

years before the Bank of England), insurance and transport are important and many companies have regional headquarters here. CN Systems, the fast-expanding business information services company, has one of the largest mainframe installations in the UK at its city centre offices and is crying out for computer staff.

House prices are surprisingly reasonable. A Victorian terrace house, fully refurbished and with central heating, costs between £18,000 and £22,000; a 1930s semi £30,000. For £80,000 you could buy a modern, detached four-bedroom house in a highly desirable area. Austin Blowers, estate agents, name prime areas as Mapperley, Park, Edwalton, and The Park, a private estate at the foot of Castle Rock.

A new initiative called Nottingham Development Enterprise aims to ensure that economic progress is maintained. The board comprises key figures from the private and public sectors, led by industrialist David White, deputy chairman of National Freight. Its brief is to maximise business potential and it has appointed the consultants Peat Marwick McLintock to draw up an action plan.

EDUCATIONAL

POSTS



THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR PLACES OF HISTORIC INTEREST OR NATURAL BEAUTY EDUCATION MANAGER

Britain's largest conservation charity, with over 1.5 million members, is seeking an Education Manager.

The post which is based at the Trust's Head Office in London has been created to widen the Trust's work in the field of education and young people. Reporting to the Director of Public Affairs the postholder will share responsibility for the overall direction of the Education Unit and the Young National Trust Theatre at Lacock, Wiltshire.

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Starting salary £14,577 pa on a scale rising to £18,981 pa to reward outstanding achievement.

The ideal candidate, aged between 27 and 35 years, will be used to working in a busy organisation under pressure and to strict deadlines while maintaining high standards of accuracy. Initiative, energy and commitment to the Trust's ideals are vital. The post involves considerable travelling for which a car will be provided. There is also a contributory pension scheme.

Please write to:
Margaret Harris
Personnel Officer
The National Trust
36 Queen Anne's Gate
London
SW1H 9AS

Closing date: 24 May 1988

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FRAMLINGHAM COLLEGE HEAD

The Governors invite applications for the Headship of Framlingham College, which will become vacant on 1st September, 1989 through the retirement of Mr L. I. Rimmer, M.A. who has been Headmaster since September, 1971.

Details of the post may be obtained from

Mr. N. K. D. Ward, B.Sc.,
The Clerk to the Governors,
Framlingham College,
Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP13 9EY

Closing date for applications is the 15th June, 1988

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UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS



CITY UNIVERSITY CHAIR IN ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT

Applications are invited for a new Chair in Engineering Management, in the Department of Systems Science.

The successful applicant will be expected to lead and develop research and teaching activity in this developing area and to enhance the already close relationships with the engineering industry and professional institutions. Engineering Management is a major focal point of engineering activity within the University's academic plan.

Applicants should be Chartered Engineers, with recent experience of management in an industry which has been subject to rapid technological change. Leadership experience in systems engineering or systems management will be an advantage.

Salary will be on the professional scale.

Application forms and further particulars of the post are available from the Academic Registrar's Office, City University, Northampton Square, London, EC1V 0BB. Telephone 01 253 4399, Ext. 3035. Closing date for applications is 31st May 1988.

NORTHERN IRELAND SERC POSTGRADUATE STUDENTSHIP

A SERC Postgraduate Studentship is available from 1 October 1988 in the field of Primary Education. The research will be carried out in the Department of Education, Belfast. The successful candidate will be expected to contribute to the development of the Department's research programme in a number of areas, including the study of the role of the teacher, the role of the parent, the role of the community, the role of the media, the role of the church, the role of the state, the role of the individual, the role of the group, the role of the society, the role of the culture, the role of the economy, the role of the environment, the role of the technology, the role of the science, the role of the art, the role of the music, the role of the sport, the role of the leisure, the role of the health, the role of the welfare, the role of the justice, the role of the defence, the role of the foreign affairs, the role of the international relations, the role of the global issues, the role of the human rights, the role of the peace, the role of the development, the role of the environment, the role of the technology, the role of the science, the role of the art, the 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Expert racing service a winner

Tomorrow *The Times* introduces the most complete and most authoritative of all the telephone racing guides... *The Times* Racing Service.

It has been especially created by experts to provide a 24-hour service every racing day, with the latest information for readers of *The Times* and all other followers of racing.

From 8.30 each morning, call 0898 100 123 for Mandarins (Michael Phillips) to tell you his view of the day's racing, how he has arrived at his selections and the latest talk from the stables and racecourses.

From the start of racing and continuously through the night, call 0898 100 123 for the Rapid Results Service.



constantly updated service of results and latest information on each race.

Throughout the hours of racing, call 0898 500 123 for live commentary from the main meetings, with the state of the going, background analysis, the latest betting from the courses, and other winner-finding information - plus, after racing, a comprehensive classified results service running through the night until the start of racing the following day.

To keep the cost of calls to a minimum, information in *The Times* Racing Service is presented quickly, accurately and to the point. Calls are charged at 25p per minute off peak and 35p per minute at all other times.

The Times Racing Service is being operated by Broadstream, which has the greatest experience in providing telephone information. Broadstream has brought together its own expertise and the authority of *The Times* to produce an unbeatable service.

Make a note of the numbers 0898 100 123 and 0898 500 123.

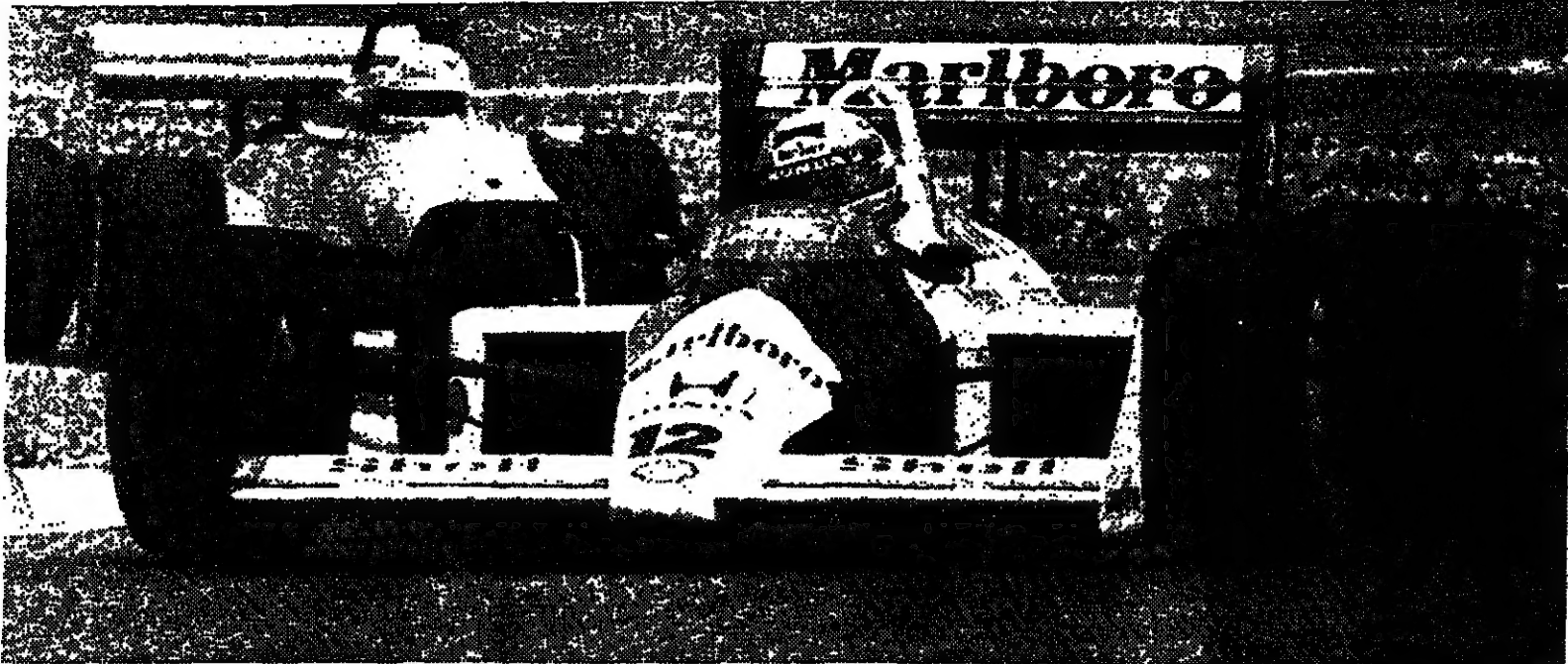
Forged tickets used at final

The record crowd at the John Player Special Cup rugby union final at Twickenham on Saturday may have been swelled by a number of spectators using forged tickets (David Hands writes).

Forged tickets were detected in a check carried out by the Rugby Football Union after 37,000 had watched Harlequins beat Bristol. No more than 30 forgeries were spotted but RFU officials believe that, judging by serial numbers, as many as 1,000 bogus tickets may have been printed.

Match report, page 27

Senna and Prost leave the world behind in the San Marino Grand Prix



A winner all the way: Ayrton Senna, of Brazil, having enjoyed a copybook start, turns on the power in his McLaren at Imola

McLaren's triumphal march

From John Blunsden
Imola

Marlboro McLaren domination of grand prix racing continued relentlessly yesterday when Ayrton Senna and Alain Prost lapped the field before finishing first and second respectively in the 60-lap San Marino Grand Prix.

Before the race the only doubt seemed to be which of the two Honda-powered drivers would be first past the post, but as Senna made a copybook start from pole position, whereas Prost hesitated away from the line when his engine almost stalled, and was only sixth at the end of the first lap, even this issue was quickly resolved.

Prost was in second place by the eighth lap, with Nelson Piquet leading the pursuit in his Camel Lotus-Honda, but it was no contest and Piquet had to concede afterwards that

although his team have made considerable improvements to their car since Rio, McLaren have advanced even more.

Asked if he thought it possible to beat the McLarens this season, he said: "We have an expression in Brazil that hope is the message of life. I can only hope."

Piquet spent much of the race fending off the most exciting element of the grand prix - the tight-fought battle between the Benetton-Ford and Williams-Judd teams for supremacy among the 3.5litre cars. In the end the Benetons emerged on top with Thierry Boutsen fourth and Alessandro Nannini sixth after being passed by Gerhard Berger's Ferrari on the final lap. Ferrari, though, were off the pace yesterday and Michele Alboreto retired with engine damage six laps from the end.

Nigel Mansell had the rare experience of starting from back on the sixth row of the grid with a car whose engine was already overheating. However, he paced his race with great skill, keeping plenty of air between his Williams and the car in front for the first half of the race in order to keep the temperatures down. Then he made his attack on the two Benetons, passing them both within a few laps, then setting off after Piquet.

On the fortieth lap he managed to squeeze past the Brazilian into third place ("that gave me a lot of satisfaction," he said afterwards), but Piquet's turbo power soon had him back in front again and Mansell retired shortly afterwards with engine trouble. Riccardo Patrese, who had led the early Williams assault in fourth place, also had engine and suspension problems late in the race.

The Arrows team, for whom Derek Warwick finished fourth in Brazil, fared less well this time. Eddie Cheever finished just out of the points in seventh place and Warwick ninth in a car in which it had been impossible to obtain the correct chassis balance all weekend.

The Tyrrell team are beginning to make solid progress with their hitherto troublesome new car and Julian Bailey in his first grand prix managed to show considerable form in the second half of the race, holding several faster cars at bay for a number of laps before retiring with the loss of fourth and fifth gears.

The team leader, Jonathan Palmer, had a difficult race but nevertheless brought his car home fourteenth, just failing to catch Patrese's Williams on the line.

RESULTS FROM IMOLA

1. A Senna (McLaren) 58 laps; 2. A Prost (McLaren) 58 laps; 3. N Piquet (Lotus-Honda) 58 laps; 4. T Boutsen (Benetton-Ford) 58 laps; 5. G Berger (Ferrari) 58 laps; 6. A Nannini (Benetton-Ford) 58 laps; 7. J Boutsen (Benetton-Ford) 58 laps; 8. S Piquet (Lotus-Honda) 58 laps; 9. D Warwick (Arrows) 58 laps; 10. E Cheever (Arrows) 58 laps; 11. J Bailey (Tyrrell) 58 laps; 12. Y Dahlgren (Lotus-Honda) 58 laps; 13. R Patrese (Williams) 58 laps; 14. J Palmer (Tyrrell) 58 laps; 15. M Suter (Toleman) 58 laps; 16. A Ribeiro (Williams) 58 laps; 17. P Alliot (Lola) 58 laps; 18. M Alboreto (Ferrari) 58 laps.

CHAMPIONSHIP POSITIONS: Drivers: 1. Prost, 15pts; 2. Senna, 9; equal 3. Berger and Piquet, 5; equal 5. Boutsen and Warwick, 3; 7. Alboreto, 2; equal 8. Nannini and Hakkinen, 1. Constructors: 1. McLaren-Honda, 52pts; 2. Ferrari, 16; Lotus-Honda, 15; 4. Benetton-Ford, 4; 5. Arrows-Megatron, 3.

Harwood proves his worth

From Mitchell Platts
Golf Correspondent
Quinta do Lago

Mike Harwood became the latest Australian to win on the European tour when he compiled a final round of 69 here yesterday to capture the £33,330 first prize in the Portuguese Open. Australian golfers have long since regarded Europe as a natural proving-ground before moving on to the US Tour, and Harwood's character was certainly examined over the closing holes.

He eventually won with an aggregate of 280, which is eight under par, and had one stroke to spare over the Irishman, Eamonn Darcy (70). Des Smyth (70), another Irishman, and Peter Baker (73), shared third place, a further stroke adrift.

Harwood controlled his game well during an outward half of 36, when the blustery conditions provided the course with additional protection. Baker, who was the "Rookie of the Year" in 1987, set out with a two-stroke lead but he faltered by taking 38 to reach the turn.

Card of course					
Hole	Yds	Par	Hole	Yds	Par
1	451	4	10	429	4
2	209	3	11	550	5
3	506	5	12	425	4
4	357	4	13	168	3
5	421	4	14	551	5
6	220	3	15	395	4
7	409	4	16	200	3
8	381	4	17	423	4
9	454	4	18	390	4
Out 3,588 36			In 3,541 36		
Total yardage: 7,129			Par 72		

At the 10th Harwood holed a bunker shot of fully 20 yards for a birdie. It took him to six under par, alongside Smyth, who was out in 34, and Darcy joined them in the lead by holing from six feet for a birdie at the 14th.

Harwood moved ahead on his own by coasing in a putt of 15 feet at the 14th but Smyth, who holed in one on Saturday, responded by hitting a seven-iron to tap-in distance at the short 16th. Darcy, too, improved his position by holing from six feet at the 15th.

It was at that hole that Harwood again made a putt of 15ft and, ahead of him, Smyth ruined his chance by taking three from the edge at the 17th. Harwood remained composed to hole a putt of six

feet to save his par at the 16th and he holed from two feet at the last after Darcy had slipped out from 35 feet.

Harwood is best known for winning the Australian PGA championship in 1986. He stands 6ft 4in tall although he insists that he has been inspired more by Bernhard Langer than by similarly-built players such as Tom Weiskopf and Nick Faldo.

Baker, aged 20, won an additional £2,000 and the Sir Henry Cotton Trophy as the leading player aged 25 or under.

LEADING FINAL SCORES (68 or less unless stated): 1. A Harwood (McLaren) 70, 68, 69, 281; 2. Darcy, 70, 72, 70, 282; 3. Smyth, 70, 74, 68, 70; 4. P Baker, 74, 68, 67, 70; 5. Boutsen (Benetton-Ford) 71, 74, 71; 6. Piquet (Lotus-Honda) 71, 74, 71; 7. J Boutsen (Benetton-Ford) 71, 74, 71; 8. P Nannini (Benetton-Ford) 71, 74, 71; 9. G Berger (Ferrari) 71, 74, 71; 10. S Piquet (Lotus-Honda) 71, 74, 71; 11. D Warwick (Arrows) 71, 74, 71; 12. E Cheever (Arrows) 71, 74, 71; 13. J Bailey (Tyrrell) 71, 74, 71; 14. Y Dahlgren (Lotus-Honda) 71, 74, 71; 15. R Patrese (Williams) 71, 74, 71; 16. J Palmer (Tyrrell) 71, 74, 71; 17. M Suter (Toleman) 71, 74, 71; 18. A Ribeiro (Williams) 71, 74, 71; 19. P Alliot (Lola) 71, 74, 71; 20. M Alboreto (Ferrari) 71, 74, 71.

© The Times on Wednesday presents a chance for four readers to play in the Wang Four Stars golf tournament at Moor Park next month.

World of golf pays respects

Sena Connery, the actor, and Nick Faldo, the Open champion, led the eight pall-bearers at the funeral yesterday of Vivia Jacklin, wife of Tony Jacklin, who is captain of the European Ryder Cup golf team (a Special Correspondent writes).

Mrs Jacklin, aged 44, died suddenly on Friday at the wheel of a car near the family home at Sotogrande in southern Spain.

The Roman Catholic cathedral of St Mary The Crowned at nearby San Roque was filled with more than 200 mourners, including Ken Schofield, executive director of the European Tour, Tommy Horton, of the Professional Golfers' Association, David Thomas, who is working with Jacklin on a new golf course, Kevin Keegan, the former England footballer, who lives on the Costa del Sol, and the Jacklins' children, Tina, Warren and Bradley.

Connery read the lesson, and the service was conducted by the Rev Ronald S Matheson, an Anglican priest.

Davis capitalizes on errors

By Steve Acton

A series of glaring errors by Terry Griffiths cost the former world champion, aged 40, the chance of a strong opening lead in the first session of his Embassy world championship showdown with Steve Davis, the reigning champion, at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield yesterday.

Davis, aged 30, from Romford, led 5-2 going into the evening's play last night in his sixth successive world final and seeking his fifth crown.

Griffiths, so fluent in his 16-11 semi-final victory over Jimmy White on Saturday, gave himself early hope when he fluked a snooker on the final green in the opening frame and cleared to the pink to go one up. But, needing only a colour to leave Davis needing snookers in the second frame, Griffiths attempted a slow blow into the left-hand centre pocket and missed - later claiming the balls had "kicked" - and Davis gradually picked off the colours to win the frame by single point.

Further errors in the third and fourth frames left Griffiths 3-1 behind when he could so easily have led 4-0, and Davis marched on to a 5-1 lead, including a break of 61 in the sixth frame before Griffiths ended his unhappy start to the match with a seventh-frame break of 50.

Barry Hearn, who manages both players, was a winner all round at the weekend. On Saturday the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA) announced its total capitalization to the triumvirate of Hearn, Frank Warren and Mark McCormack's International Management Group in their recent warfare and has abandoned plans to hold its own tournament next December. It also agreed to sanction, for a hefty fee, Hearn's world match-play event which takes place in the London Docklands between December 3 and 11. Hearn's Wimbledon-style World Open is likewise sanctioned for a minimum four years.

Since the WPBSA has also conceded the British TV rights, its chairman, John Virgo, had some words to

Allen is back to help Spurs avoid play-offs

By Dennis Signy and Dennis Shaw

Clive Allen, who has signed to join Bordeaux, the French league champions, in a £1 million transfer at the end of the season, is recalled by Terry Venables, the Tottenham Hotspur manager, for today's crucial game against Charlton Athletic at Selhurst Park.

With Paul Walsh, his recent £500,000 acquisition from Liverpool, doubtful with a knock, Venables drafts in Allen for his first game since negotiations began with Bordeaux, although he did come on as a substitute late on in the 1-0 defeat at Liverpool.

Venables, who has recently left out Allen to see his options without him, said: "His attitude is good. He wants to play and is ready to give it his best shot." Allen has scored 13 goals this season.

Tottenham, confident after a good performance at Anfield but still needing points to ensure missing the play-off position, face two former players, Crooks, in good goal-scoring form recently, and Miller in a revived Charlton side. The issue may not be resolved for Charlton until they visit Chelsea at Stamford Bridge on Saturday for the final game of the League programme.

While Chelsea - also confident after a 1-1 draw against Liverpool that extended their recent run to only one defeat in nine games - announced an unchanged side and settled into an hotel near Epping Forest last night, John Lyall, the West Ham United manager, has to wait until this morning before naming his side.

Bonds had treatment for an ankle injury yesterday and Lyall must decide if Robson is fit to play after an operation on a broken nose which put him out of Saturday's 2-1 defeat at Southampton. Lyall, without the experienced Brady and Stewart, has reluctantly ruled out a comeback for Martin, who has been sidelined with a foot injury.

Cottee, like Peter Shilton at Derby, another side involved in the struggle, is dependent on West Ham climbing out of the play-off position as extra end-of-season games could interfere with England preparations for the European championship.

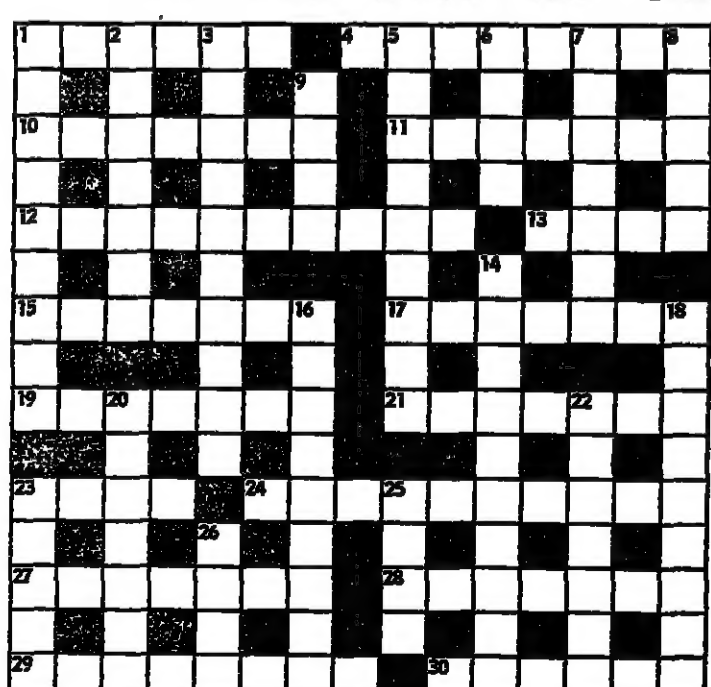
Steve Coppell, the manager of Crystal Palace, sixth in the second division, is the odd man out of the London managers. He is desperate to get into the play-off positions and expects to field the side that beat Blackburn Rovers 2-0 in the away game against Leeds United today. Coppell accepts that "there is still a mountain to climb".

Rome (Renter) - AC Milan, inspired by Rudi Gutti, won 3-2 at Napoli yesterday to replace them at the top of the Italian League with a lead of one point with two matches of the championship left.

Virdis put Milan ahead after 35 minutes, but Maradona equalized just before half time. A second goal by Virdis and one by van Basten put Milan 3-1 up after 79 minutes before Caracciola pulled one back four minutes from time.

Ian Rush scored the winning goal two minutes from time in Juventus's 2-1 defeat of their neighbours, Torino.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,658



- ACROSS
- The French, following a plan, get shady trees (6).
 - Flag, as usual (8).
 - Conducted a bag search (7).
 - Revive with a little relaxation and a mineral (7).
 - Cheers amid reform for a man of principle (10).
 - Well-established business (4).
 - Country music composer (7).
 - The outcome of pressure here will be a letting off (7).
 - Not interrupted without purpose (7).
 - A neat drive (5-2).
 - With due deference for both state and church (4).
 - Travel accompanied by a fellow worker (10).
 - Possibly it's not a stopping-place (7).
 - Where to see a large bird by the water (7).
 - Late in the day the head makes a regular appearance (8).
 - Coming nowadays before the opening (6).
- DOWN
- Spread at sea to entrap fish (9).
 - Face pain with spirit (7).
 - Given aid, created trouble and got out (10).
 - Hill guide who causes much anguish (9).
 - Home from one's travels (4).
 - Loving phone-call after a party (7).
 - Mother set about some soldiers - fancy! (5).
 - New keys made for the island (4).
 - Timekeeper is little help (6-4).
 - Doesn't take into consideration special reductions (9).
 - Having to do with jailed social worker being ashamed (9).
 - Shorten the time taken to provide port facilities (7).
 - Estate many men see split up (7).
 - Over a quarter may be of imitation done (5).
 - Stood up for a woman (4).
 - The attitude of people receiving one (4).

Concise Crossword, page 10

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

MARIVAUDAGE

- A bridegroom's price
- Affliction
- A lewd practice of Sodom

PIXEL

- Part of a TV picture
- A female elf
- To move into alcohol

DIKE-LOUPER

- A gender-bender
- A stammer
- A ditch-digger

REBOATIC

- A loose dance
- A West Indian croole
- Re-echoing

Answers on page 16, column 1

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 17,657 will appear next Saturday

WEATHER

Unsettled weather is expected in most areas. Northern Scotland will be overcast and cool with mist and some rain. Other areas will see some sunshine, but also showers, some heavy with hail and thunder. There will also be spells of more continuous rain. Areas sheltered by high ground to the south will see the best of the sun. On North Sea coasts, north-east England and Scotland, patchy fog will turn to cloud. It will be quite breezy generally, with the wind touching gale force in the south-west. Outlook: generally unsettled.

AROUND BRITAIN

Sun	Rain	C	F	Wind
Scarborough	7.5	11	49	chill
London	7.5	11	49	chill
Cardiff	7.5	11	49	chill
Southampton	7.5	11	49	chill
Manchester	7.5	11	49	chill
Birmingham	7.5	11	49	chill
Edinburgh	7.5	11	49	chill
Belfast	7.5	11	49	chill
Sheffield	7.5	11	49	chill
Nottingham	7.5	11	49	chill
Leeds	7.5	11	49	chill
Coventry	7.5	11	49	chill
Warwick	7.5	11	49	chill
Gloucester	7.5	11	49	chill
Bristol	7.5	11	49	chill
Exeter	7.5	11	49	chill
Plymouth	7.5	11	49	chill
Truro	7.5	11	49	chill
St Austery	7.5	11	49	chill
St Ives	7.5	11	49	chill
St Peter Port	7.5	11	49	chill
St Helier	7.5	11	49	chill
St John	7.5	11	49	chill
St Pierre	7.5	11	49	chill
St Martin	7.5	11	49	chill
St Kitts	7.5	11	49	chill
St Lucia	7.5	11	49	chill
St Vincent	7.5	11	49	chill
St John's	7.5	11	49	chill

ABROAD

City	Temp	Wind
Amsterdam	10	11
Brussels	10	11
Frankfurt	10	11
Geneva	10	11
London	10	11
Madrid	10	11
Moscow	10	11
Paris	10	11
Rome	10	11
Stockholm	10	11
Vienna	10	11
Zurich	10	11

* Denotes figures not available.

HIGH TIDES

Location	AM	PM
London Bridge	2.47	5.7
Avonmouth	2.47	5.7
Belfast	2.47	5.7
Bristol	2.47	5.7
Cardiff	2.47	5.7
Coventry	2.47	5.7
Edinburgh	2.47	5.7
Exeter	2.47	5.7
Gloucester	2.47	5.7
Leeds	2.47	5.7
Manchester	2.47	5.7
Nottingham	2.47	5.7
Sheffield	2.47	5.7
Southampton	2.47	5.7
St Austery	2.47	5.7
St Ives	2.47	5.7
St Peter Port	2.47	5.7
St Helier	2.47	5.7
St John	2.47	5.7
St Pierre	2.47	5.7
St Martin	2.47	5.7
St Kitts	2.47	5.7
St Lucia	2.47	5.7
St Vincent	2.47	5.7
St John's	2.47	5.7

The Times on Monday presents a chance for four readers to play in the Wang Four Stars golf tournament at Moor Park next month.

AM

PM

YESTERDAY

City	Temp	Wind
London	10	11
Cardiff	10	11
Manchester	10	11
Birmingham	10	11
Edinburgh	10	11
Belfast	10	11
Sheffield</		